



Jordan Times

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Egypt names Ghali to seek U.N. post

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt Sunday nominated Butros Ghali, a veteran diplomat and a prominent architect of the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli treaty, for the post of secretary general of the United Nations. A foreign ministry official, who declined to be named, said the nomination was made through diplomatic channels in New York. U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's second five-year term ends Dec. 31 and he has said he will not extend it. The secretary general is the chief administrative officer at the U.N. He is elected by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. Among five people who have held the post of secretary general until now are three Europeans, one Asian and one Latin American. Several names are being considered for the post including former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Sadruddin Aga Khan, former U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, and Maurice Strong, former head of the U.N. Environment Programme, are also considered possibilities for the post.

Support rises for Israeli right wing

TEL AVIV (AP) — An opinion survey published Sunday showed the gap between left and right-wing parties has widened since the last national elections, with support for the hawkish parties eight per cent higher than for the doves. In the 1988 elections, the gap was only 1.5 per cent in favour of the right-wing parties. The survey, published in the English-language Jerusalem Post daily, was conducted by pollsters Hanoch and Rafi Smith, who have successfully projected elections results for television. It questioned 1,100 Jewish Israelis on June 23-30, with a plus or minus three per cent margin of error. The results were that 45.5 per cent of Israelis said they would vote for right-wing parties, with the largest chunk favouring the Likud bloc. It also showed that 37.5 per cent said they would choose left-wing parties, with the majority favouring the Labour Party. In the November 1988 parliamentary elections 41.5 per cent voted for right-wing parties and 40 per cent voted for left-wing parties. In both Sunday's poll and the last elections, most of the remaining support went to religious or predominantly Arab parties.

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U.N. team plans report at week's end

BAGHDAD (AP) — A U.N. nuclear inspection team plans to issue a report at week's end that could determine the allied response to charges of Iraqi cheating on nuclear site disclosure. Dimitri Perissos, an official with the International Atomic Energy Agency, said his 37-person crew saw two previously inspected sites Sunday. But he refused to comment on whether it had seen or asked to see an elusive convoy of what the U.N. alleges is nuclear weapons-making equipment. "There will be no other comment for the time being until it (the team) finishes its job," Mr. Perissos told reporters at his Baghdad hotel.

U.N. chief, Yilmaz discuss Cyprus, Iraq

ISTANBUL (R) — United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar met Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz Sunday for talks on the Cyprus issue and the situation in northern Iraq. Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who arrived Saturday for a four-day private visit, will meet President Turgut Ozal in the southwestern resort town of Marmaris Monday, Anatolian news agency said. It gave no details of Sunday's talks.

Sudanese advised not to visit Egypt

KHARTOUM (AP) — The government Sunday advised Sudanese not to visit Egypt unless absolutely necessary after 260 passengers were turned back at Cairo airport this week. In a statement broadcast on state-run Omdurman Radio, the government advised Sudanese to make sure all their travel documents are in order to avoid expulsion by Egyptian authorities. "We would like to advise citizens not to travel (to Egypt) except in the cases of absolute necessity," the statement said.

Egyptian police arrest fugitive

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police Sunday recaptured a fugitive militant charged in connection with the murder of Parliament Speaker Rifaat Al Mahjoub. An interior ministry statement said police arrested Safwat Abdul Ghani, at large since April 17, while he was walking at dawn along the banks of the River Nile — only a few hundred metres away from the spot where Mr. Mahjoub was gunned down. The statement said Mr. Abdul Ghani was carrying a loaded revolver and a forged identity card. Another man accompanying Mr. Abdul Ghani, a member of the outlawed Jihad group which assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981, was also arrested. Police said they found foreign currency and arms in a Cairo flat belonging to Mr. Abdul Ghani and several of his accomplices still at large. Mr. Abdul Ghani, 27, escaped from a prison in April while being taken from a Cairo jail to another in Upper Egypt so that he could sit for his university examinations.

Chevenement assails French role in Gulf

PARIS (R) — Former French Defence Minister Jean Pierre Chevenement, who quit during the Gulf war, told French Radio Sunday that the country's intervention in Iraq was nothing to be proud of. "Iraq has been set back 30 years, and is susceptible to anarchy and repression. It's not brilliant," he said. Mr. Chevenement, who resigned during the Gulf war in a disagreement over the involvement of French troops in the fighting, criticised President Francois Mitterrand for not bringing new ideas to French foreign policy. "Since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the renewal of the world order, France gives the impression of hesitating in its foreign policy," he said. "A head of state has the role of providing momentum. And from that point of view, we need a new class," he added. Mr. Chevenement was elected in June to the National Assembly in a by-election in the eastern French town of Belfort.

Royal Decree repeals martial law

Economic Security Committee decisions remain in force pending substitute legislation

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A Royal Decree issued Sunday abolished martial law in force in Jordan since 1967. The decree said His Majesty King Hussein endorsed a recommendation by the government to repeal martial law in accordance with Item Two of Article 125 of the Constitution. "As a complementary step towards the establishment of democracy, which we have chosen as a way of life, and as further corroboration of the climate of freedom, which we have chosen as a model for the country and the (Arab) nation, and in pursuit of

efforts to lay the foundation for the current stage in which we strive to build a state of institutions where all citizens are equal before the law, in true commitment to defending human rights and dignity of each and every citizen, and in response to the government's decision to repeal martial law ahead of drawing up new laws to fill the legal gaps which could emerge from cancelling martial law, we decree that martial law be abolished," the Royal Decree said. The decree, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, goes into effect immediately after the decree is published in the official gazette (the latest issue of the

gazette will be published today). The decree stipulated that all regulations issued under martial law provisions were cancelled, but made the following exemptions: — All decisions taken by the Economic Security Committee (ESC) will remain in force until substitute regulations are enacted. These involve the August 1989 take-over of Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank, the subsequent liquidation of Petra Bank and the trial by military court of those involved in the collapse of the bank. The Council of Ministers is empowered to exclude or include other cases from the lifting of

martial law as it finds fit. This provision is in force until substitute legislation has been enacted. — The abolition of martial law and the exemptions made are not subject to any contest in a court of law or any other official body. — Military courts will continue to function and try cases and the prime minister has the power to refer any case to the civil judiciary system. — The prime minister is also empowered to endorse or commute sentences passed by the military courts with the exception of cases where the death penalty has been handed down. — All these stipulations under the decree are final and cannot be

contested in any court of law. The abolition of martial law came ahead of an extraordinary session of Parliament which begins Monday. During the session, the government of Prime Minister Taher Masri is scheduled to present its programme and seek a vote of confidence. Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arahayat Sunday issued a call for the House to meet Monday. The House will also fix a date for the new government to present its programme to Parliament and will call on provisional House committees to meet and fill vacancies in these panels. The abolition of martial law is

in line with the democratisation process which started with parliamentary elections in November 1989. The government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, which assumed office in December 1989, promised to repeal martial law and, in early 1990, froze most of its provisions pending the enactment of substitute civil laws. Martial law was proclaimed in Jordan at the time of the 1967 war. It is based on a 1935 defence law. A new defence law, which contains substitute legislation, has been approved by Parliament.



Jordan, China to increase cooperation, boost relations

Amman, Peking share identical views on Mideast

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng Sunday ended a two-day state visit to Jordan after holding talks with Jordanian leaders and concluding agreements on promoting bilateral cooperation in various fields. Prime Minister Taher Masri, who saw off his Chinese counterpart, said the talks revealed that Amman and Peking held identical views with regard to various topics discussed in the past two days. The talks tackled political issues, cooperation in economic and cultural fields and prospects for increasing trade between China and Jordan, Mr. Masri said following Sunday's session. "We focused attention on the prospect of launching joint ventures, benefiting from China's

vast experience and expertise, and the two sides agreed to convene a meeting of experts from the two countries to pave the ground for joint enterprise," Mr. Masri said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and Radio Jordan. In reply to a question concerning the role China could play in giving momentum to the Middle East peace process, the prime minister said that China supports the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and that this position was emphasised during Mr. Li's talks here. Mr. Masri said China opposes Israel's settlement policies in the occupied Arab territories and supports calls for an international peace conference to settle the Middle East conflict. He said that

China supports the idea of involving the superpowers, the European Community and the concerned parties in the conference so that it can have an international character. Following Mr. Li's talks here, Jordan and China signed a protocol on bilateral cooperation in science and technology. Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz, who signed for Jordan, said that the protocol regulates scientific and technological cooperation between Jordan and China and provides for the exchange of visits by delegations to discuss cooperation and of expertise related to research and cooperation among Chinese and Jordanian academics and researchers. The five-year protocol can be

Iraqis resume search for accord on Kurds

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's rebel Kurds and a high-level government team have resumed their search for an elusive peace and autonomy agreement after a break of almost a month. Rebel leaders Massoud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, smiling and looking relaxed, sat down with President Saddam Hussein's deputy Izzat Ibrahim Saturday in the Kurdish administrative capital of Irbil. The two sides, who have been negotiating on and off since the collapse of a rebellion in the Kurdish north at the end of March, had agreed to meet again in the next few days, it said. Al Thawra, newspaper of Iraq's ruling Baath Party, meanwhile published an optimistic interview with Mr. Barzani in which he described outstanding problems as "only small matters." The Irbil meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and Defence Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan and shown on television. It marked the end of a month punctuated by statements from Mr. Barzani suggesting that the Kurds were on the verge of signing a pact with Mr. Saddam. But Kurdish dissatisfaction with some details emerged after Mr. Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, returned from a visit to Turkey to discuss the deal negotiated in Baghdad by a team led by Mr. Barzani. In his comments called by Al Thawra, Mr. Barzani said "with regard to democracy, we have reached a very positive result. ... a new draft law on autonomy has been agreed on and will be legislated soon."

Israeli shot and wounded in Gaza

U.N. special envoy meets Levy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli man was shot in the head and seriously wounded Sunday while in the occupied Gaza Strip to pick up workers for jobs in Israel, the military command said. Military officials said they believed the attack was linked to Palestinian activists, but other motives were being checked. The victim was "shot in the head at close range by a pistol," after reaching Gaza to pick up workers, the army command said. It said the victim was from the southern port city of Ashdod. Army radio said the man was shot while waiting for Arab workers at a junction near Gaza's southernmost point, Rafah. A second car pulled up and its passengers shot eight times at him, hitting him in the head and hand. Somehow he got back into his car and drove 30 kilometres north towards the Erez checkpoint and entrance to the Gaza Strip, the radio reported. He collapsed near Gaza City where he asked an Arab driver to take him to the Erez checkpoint. From the checkpoint he was rushed to Soroka hospital where he underwent surgery. Dr. Eli Reichenthal, head of the neurosurgery ward at Soroka, said the man had been hit in the forehead and was in critical condition.

The last fatal Palestinian attack on Israelis was June 29 when an Israeli farmer was knifed to death in his field in a settlement in the occupied West Bank. During the nearly 43-month Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories, 835 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis, and another 406 have been slain by fellow Palestinians or unknown assailants as alleged collaborators with Israel, according to the AP. At least 67 Israelis and five foreigners have also died in the revolt. U.N. envoy meets Levy

Israel says it will stay in Lebanon until Syria leaves

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Sunday that Israel would oppose abandoning its self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon unless Syrian troops also withdrew from the country. Mr. Levy spoke after a cabinet debate on the Lebanese army's assuming control of Palestinian bases as part of Lebanon's effort to reassert its control over the southern part of the country. The move is expected to create pressure on Israel to dismantle the zone it controls in Lebanon — about 10 per cent of the tiny country's area. But Mr. Levy challenged whether curbing Palestinian forces around the port of Sidon and taking their heavy weapons meant the Lebanese army could prevent attacks on northern Israeli settlements. "Who could guarantee such

security if not the Israeli army," Mr. Levy said on Israel Radio. "There are foreign forces in Lebanon who more than once have collaborated or helped attacks on our borders. Certainly we cannot place our trust in them." "When the day comes that all foreign forces leave Lebanon and a sovereign Lebanon wants to discuss peace, they will certainly find Israel ready," Mr. Levy added. While Mr. Levy did not mention Syria by name, he was clearly referring to the 40,000 troops that Syria maintains in Lebanon. No decision was reported from the cabinet meeting. However, several Israeli officials expressed scepticism about whether the Lebanese army would hock guerrilla attacks on Israeli targets. "They are remaining in their positions with one kind of

weapons or another," said Ori Orr, a reservist general and former commander of the Lebanese front. In South Lebanon, Lebanese army troops raided Sidon's old bazaar Sunday and arrested some 60 people wanted for burglaries, smuggling or drug dealing. It was the first time security authorities in Lebanon were able to crack down on the bazaar in Sidon's old quarter since the civil war broke out 16 years ago. Those taken into custody included Lebanese, Palestinians, Syrians and Egyptians, police said. One suspect was shot and wounded by soldiers as he tried to flee, they said. Also Sunday, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) fighters for a second day turned over anti-aircraft guns, multi-barrelled rocket launchers and heavy machine guns to the army.

The Irbil meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and Defence Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan and shown on television. It marked the end of a month punctuated by statements from Mr. Barzani suggesting that the Kurds were on the verge of signing a pact with Mr. Saddam. But Kurdish dissatisfaction with some details emerged after Mr. Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, returned from a visit to Turkey to discuss the deal negotiated in Baghdad by a team led by Mr. Barzani. In his comments called by Al Thawra, Mr. Barzani said "with regard to democracy, we have reached a very positive result. ... a new draft law on autonomy has been agreed on and will be legislated soon."

Algerian police hold another FIS leader

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Riot police arrested another senior leader of the Muslim fundamentalist opposition Sunday, and a human rights group demanded an inquiry into the state-of-emergency crackdown. Ali-Yahia Abdenour, president of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights, said that there had been 6,000 arrests and 300 deaths since June 4. His figures, which he said were unverified, were far higher than the 1,367 arrests and roughly 55 deaths confirmed by the government. The two top leaders of the main fundamentalist party, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), were arrested June 30. One of the highest-ranking leaders still at liberty, Mohammed Said, was arrested Sunday. Mr. Said was taken away by riot police while holding a news conference in an Algiers suburb to announce that he was taking over temporarily as chief spokesman for the front. Before his arrest, Mr. Said passed on an appeal from the front's arrested president, Abassi Madani, that the movement strive to avoid a ban so it would not have to go underground. Mr. Said had urged release of all arrested fundamentalists and an end to the emergency. He said he did not know how many arrests had occurred. Mr. Abdenour said his estimates of arrests and deaths were based on unverified information received by his office from across the country. He said many of those arrested had been taken by

military authorities to secret detention centres. Police armed with automatic weapons, tear-gas launchers and batons burst into a news conference being given by Mr. Said at the town hall in the FIS stronghold of Kouba. Police hustled reporters out of the building and witnesses said they then arrested Mr. Said. Mr. Said earlier told the news conference that the FIS had made him provisional leader in place of Mr. Madani. Mr. Madani and his fiery deputy Ali Belhadj were arrested last Sunday in an operation backed by tank and troop reinforcements. They face trial in a military court on charges of organising and leading an armed conspiracy against state security. Mr. Said told reporters the FIS wanted dialogue with the government after weeks of fundamentalist unrest in which at least 40 and possibly up to 70 people died. Police moved in an hour after the news conference started. Witnesses told reporters outside that Mr. Said had been arrested. Five police wagons were drawn up near the mosque in Kouba. Another nine, including one with bulldozer blades, were seen heading up towards the hilltop suburbs. Major-General Nezzar said the army moved in to "extinguish the fire," and protect democracy against "a minority wanting to impose its ideas, which did not respect the laws of the state." "A minority cannot be allowed the upper hand over everybody," he said.

International siege cripples Aqaba

By Rana Sabbagh Reuter

AMMAN — U.S.-led navies, enforcing a U.N. trade embargo against Iraq, are devastating Jordan's maritime business by tough post-Gulf war inspections, shipping agents and officials said Sunday. They complained that allied navies were closely monitoring shipping to Aqaba, Jordan's only port. Amman was sympathetic but officially neutral in the conflict despite massive popular support for Baghdad. Allied warships stationed in the Tiran Straits at the entrance of the Gulf of Aqaba have enforced tough inspection orders since the war ended in February. "What is happening now is another way of saying no more shipping for Aqaba," Tawfiq Kassar, head of the Jordanian Shipping Agents Association, told Reuters in an interview. "They (the allies) are now

demanding that all cargo and containers on any ship heading to the port be accessible to inspectors, not just goods heading to Aqaba, once Iraq's main sea link," he said. Ships calling at Aqaba usually carry containers bound to other Red Sea ports. Allied demands for access to all cargoes is physically impossible and is driving away shippers, Mr. Kassar said. And tampering with containers carefully placed to ensure a ship's stability throughout its sea voyage could endanger safety, he added. Jordan says it is fully complying with sanctions against Iraq, once its biggest export market at a huge cost to its economy. Amman says it is only letting food, medicines and other humanitarian supplies go to Iraq after the U.N. slightly eased sanctions in April, when Baghdad accepted the Gulf war ceasefire.

Officials do not deny that some goods may be smuggled to Iraq across Jordan's long desert border though they maintain the illegal trade is negligible. "Jordan is looked upon as the only culprit while the rest of Iraq's neighbours — Iran, Syria and Turkey — are enjoying a field day of smuggling without being questioned," said Mr. Kassar. Ship agents and officials say inspectors were inconsistent and on many occasions did not respect documents issued by the U.S. embassy in Amman clearing Aqaba-bound goods. Ships were sometimes stopped for several days before getting clearance to enter because not all cargo was easily accessible. At other times, ships were either cleared with no problems or turned back and forced to discharge cargo in nearby ports.

Serbs, Croats clash as EC seeks peace

BRIONI, Yugoslavia (AP) — Croatian militiamen and Serbian nationalists fought fierce battles Sunday, leading federal troops to intervene. At least 10 people were reported killed. Meanwhile, European Community (EC) negotiators met on a scenic island to try to secure peace in neighbouring Slovenia. Both republics declared independence June 25. The federal army moved in quickly in Slovenia to try to force it back into the union, but violence in Croatia had until now been limited to ethnic clashes. Federal army tanks and armoured personnel carriers moved in Sunday to halt fierce fighting between Serbian nationalists' positions in Tenja, a village in northeastern Croatia. A Croatian defence ministry spokesman said the federal army opened fire on the republic's forces with mortars, machine guns and tanks and dozens of people were killed. "We think that there must be dozens of dead people," said Mate Salinovic, the deputy police chief in nearby Osijek. "If there were no army, we would solve this in half an hour."

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug and Belgrade Radio reported that the army tried to set up a buffer zone between the Serbs and the Croats but was drawn into the fighting. Tanjug said, however, that Croatian militiamen and Croatian national guardsmen opened fire first at army armoured personnel carriers. Radio Belgrade reported that at least 10 Croats were killed or wounded in the fighting. Tanjug reported that a ceasefire was reached with the agreement of the federal army at 2:00 p.m. (1200 GMT), following ten hours of clashes. Editors at the Osijek newspaper Glas Slavone said early Sunday Croatian forces fired artillery at Serbian nationalists' positions in Tenja. The Croatian defence ministry said the Croats held their fire when the army formed a buffer, but Serbian nationalists fired mortars over the army positions at the Croats. An unidentified man, who said he was a member of the "staff for the defence," of Tenja, appealed on Belgrade Radio for Serbs to

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Kabariti stresses role of tourism in national economy

AMMAN (Petra) — Tourism and Antiquities Minister Abdul Kabarti Sunday stressed the importance of developing the tourism sector as called for in the Royal letter of appointment to the government.

He said that the tourism sector was one of the most important economic and social sectors in view of its contribution to supporting the balance of payments and reducing the trade balance deficit.

At a meeting with owners of the tourist hotels in Jordan, held at the Philadelphia Hotel, Mr. Kabarti called for drawing up an integrated plan for tourism that takes into consideration tourist marketing mechanisms, timing and philosophy of marketing.

He emphasised the importance of internal tourism as a supplement to the Jordanian economy.

He also said that the ministry was ready to support investment projects in the area of tourism and to provide the facilities and infrastructure needed for carrying out such projects in a bid to attract the largest number of Jordanian investors.

He said that his ministry would set up a special fund with a capital of JD 4 million which will be used to grant loans to tourist facilities in the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Kabarti emphasised the need for placing Jordan anew on the international tourist map and for giving priority to restoring traditional tourist markets in Germany, Italy and Great Britain.

Hotel owners agreed at the meeting to contact tour organisers to market Jordan abroad and encourage tourism. Hotel owners also agreed to coordinate efforts with Royal Jordanian (RJ) and the Tourism Ministry to prepare tourist programmes in countries where RJ operates.



KING TALAL REMEMBERED: Jordan Sunday marked the 20th anniversary of the death of King Talal I the Abdullah, father of His Majesty King Hussein and the eldest son of the late King Abdullah I the Hashemite Kingdom. On the occasion King Hussein visited the tomb of the late King Talal, read out Al Fatiha (the first sura of the Koran) and laid a wreath on the tomb. Also paying their respects were His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Al

Hussein, other Royal family members, Sheriffs, the prime minister and Cabinet ministers, speakers and members of the Upper and Lower houses of Parliament, the Royal Court chief, senior Royal Court staff, the chief Islamic justice, Muslim ulamas, the Armed Forces chief of staff and senior officers, the acting mayor of Greater Amman and directors and senior officers from the Public Security, General Intelligence and Civil Defence departments.

'Lack of order led to decision to stop W. Bank tawjihi exams'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education's decision Saturday to suspend tawjihi examinations in the West Bank schools was taken in view of lack of order in examination halls and interference by citizens in the examination process, the ministry's Secretary-General Munther Al Masri said Sunday.

Dr. Masri said the decision to resume the examination would be taken by the ministry's Examinations Committee in the West Bank. "Once a suitable educational climate that guarantees a sound course of examination prevails, the committee will decide to resume the examination," Dr. Masri told the Jordan Times.

According to Dr. Masri, between 10,000 to 12,000 students are sitting for the exams in the

West Bank. The students did not sit for the first semester examination session because the education process in the occupied territories was disrupted by closure of schools and curfews imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities.

According to a study conducted by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Education Department in April, schools in the occupied territories have lost more than half of their class days because of military closure orders and curfews.

The study said that about 73 per cent of the lost school days in the territories were caused by military closure orders, 13.3 were caused by general strikes and the rest by curfews imposed by the occupation authorities or by

sit-ins staged by students and teachers at schools to mourn colleagues killed by Israeli soldiers or settlers.

Dr. Masri said if the examination suspension decision remains effective until September, the time Jordanian universities start admitting students, the Higher Education Ministry will discuss reserving the university seats assigned for West Bank students every year till the results are announced.

"In a previous similar case, in which the examination was delayed, the seats (for West Bank students) were reserved for the second semester upon a decision by the Higher Education Council which is chaired by the minister of higher education," Dr. Masri said.

Chinese guests briefed on Jordanian women's involvement in socio-economic development

AMMAN (Petra) — The wife of the visiting Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng Sunday visited the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) in Amman and was briefed by its Deputy Director Thihni Raafat on the foundation's activities and projects to involve Jordanian women in socio-economic development in the Kingdom.

The distinguished guest also visited the Puppet Theatre and the National Music Conservatory as well as the Traditional Hand-

icraft Centre.

During a visit to the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, the Chinese first lady inspected various items on display and discussed the prospect of exchanging Chinese and Jordanian expertise in handicraft work. Discussion also touched on the possibility of China's financing the establishment of a factory to produce cloth and thread used in the manufacture of handicrafts and traditional products.

The wife of the Chinese presi-

dent, Zhu Lin, Saturday met with Her Majesty Queen Noor and discussed venues of cooperation between NHF and similar institutions in China.

The discussion focused on ways the NHF can benefit from Chinese expertise at the National Music Conservatory, the Design and Trade Centre and the Puppet Theatre.

The wives of the Chinese president and foreign minister Sunday visited Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the

Board of Trustees of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF), and discussed the fund's activities.

The Princess reviewed the fund's plans which are primarily aimed at improving the standard of women in the rural regions and boosting services for children through cooperation with voluntary organisations.

The two sides exchanged views about Chinese and Jordanian experiments in social and voluntary work.

Maritime company briefs Suheimat on activity, plans

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab Maritime Bridge Company (AMBC) board members Sunday briefed Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat on the company's situation and its efforts to promote transport between Asian and African-Arab countries.

The company is a joint venture owned equally by Iraq, Jordan and Egypt and operates the sea land route linking Aqaba to Nweibeh in Sinai.

The company, established in 1988, operates ferry boats transporting passengers and vehicles as well as various types of goods between the two sides. At the meeting, the board members talked in detail about the company's future plans for expansion and modernisation.

Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq are members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which also includes Yemen.

The port of Aqaba had witnessed increased activity over the past several years up to the outbreak of the Gulf crisis.

According to Director of Jordanian Ports Corporation (JPC) Ahmad Fawzi Abu Nowar,

a special team that has been preparing a detailed study on the Aqaba Port and its operations was expected to finalise its work later this week.

The study covers the port's present and future needs and expansion plans, according to Mr. Abu Nowar.

Mr. Abu Nowar is a member of a special committee set up by Mr. Suheimat to conduct a study on the traffic through the port. Mr. Abu Nowar was quoted by Al Ra'i daily Sunday as saying that the port operations could be boosted to increase its annual revenue to JD 400 million in hard currency, most of which will be paid by cargo vessels docking at the port.

The port's present capacity, he said, is nearly 20 million tonnes of goods annually. He said revenues also come from transit operations, largely Iraqi imports, noting that Iraq, which depended on the Aqaba Port during its eight-year war with Iran, was expected to rely more on Aqaba for its export-import operations once the present embargo has been lifted.



CHINESE PREMIER TOURS DEAD SEA: Visiting Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng Sunday visited the Dead Sea and inspected the Dead Sea Hotel and its adjacent mineral water spa which offers therapeutic treatment. Mr. Li was accompanied by his wife and Chinese and Jordanian officials. Following the visit, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qun said in a statement that the two countries could initiate cooperation in tourism. "Jordan is rich with natural tourist sites, like the Dead Sea, and archaeological places, like Petra and Jerash, and the Kingdom enjoys excellent climate for sightseeing," the foreign minister said. He expressed hope that the future would witness close cooperation between Jordan and China in tourism.

JPPNW honoured for activity during Gulf war

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Society of Jordanian Doctors for the Prevention of Nuclear War (JPPNW) has been granted the Albert Schweitzer Award in appreciation of its efforts during the Gulf war.

A delegation representing JPPNW received the award in Stockholm where it was participating in the tenth conference of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW).

Tb Jordanian delegation, headed by Dr. Nabih Mu'ammir, has played a key role in making the conference adopt a resolution urging the United Nations to lift

the economic embargo imposed on Iraq since its Aug. 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The delegation also hoped in the adoption of another resolution calling on the U.N. to implement resolutions 181, 242 and 338.

The IPPNW groups 300,000 doctors from 71 countries, including Jordan. It is advocating the destruction of all nuclear and other mass destruction weapons.

Taking part in the conference were 3,000 doctors. The JPPNW delegation to the conference included Dr. Mahmoud Al Huncidi, Dr. Hassan Badran, Dr. Samir Samawi and Dr. Mahmoud Al Taher.

Minister visits Karak hospitals, pledges help

KARAK (J.T.) — The Ministry of Health has allocated JD 700,000 to lay the infrastructure of the new Karak hospital and the first phase of the project will soon get underway, according to Minister of Health Mamdouh Al Abbadi.

The service offered by the existing hospitals in the city are far from satisfactory and cannot cater to the growing needs of Karak Governorate residents," the minister said in a statement during an inspection visit to Karak Sunday.

In remarks to Karak Governor Eid Qataneh, several Parliament members from the governorate and directors of various departments, Dr. Abbadi said that the Health Ministry had sufficient staff capable of dealing with the Karak Governorate's problems in terms of health services and medical equipment.

The Italian government had promised to finance the new hospital in Karak and plans were recently reported under way to prepare the ground for the project to start.

Of a \$107 million aid package, the Italian government last month signed with Jordan, a sum of \$55 million was allocated to help finance the Karak hospital project along with the restoration of the Jerash archaeological site and several other socio-economic development schemes in Jordan.

The minister listened to a briefing about the health services and met with doctors working at the Karak hospitals.

He was briefed on the shortage of specialists, orthopedists, ophthalmologists, ear, nose and throat specialists, assistant pharmacists, laboratory technicians, physiotherapists as well as medicine and medical equipment.

The minister promised to look into the issues and address them.

The doctors pointed out that the hospital lacked a first aid unit at a time when the need for such a service was growing every day.

Dr. Abbadi, accompanied by a number of officials, later visited the hospital in Ghur Al Safi.

The minister inspected health and medical services at the health centres and clinics in Tafleh. The Ministry of Health will give due care to these centres and supply them with their needs of various equipment and staff, Dr. Abbadi said in a statement during his tour.

The minister said that allocations of funds had been made for conducting maintenance work on the various centres in the Tafleh area.

He said that a special committee had been set up to take over the new Tafleh hospital so that it can supervise the provision of various equipment expected to cost JD 3 million.

Jordan thanks U.N. head for efforts on behalf of Palestinians in Kuwait

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Sunday thanked U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for his efforts that resulted in commuting the death sentences of Jordanian citizens in Kuwait and said the move was a very positive step in the right direction.

Jordan's appreciation was expressed by Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour in a memorandum to the U.N. chief voicing the Kingdom's gratitude for his efforts which, he said, ended in commuting the death sentences to life imprisonment.

On June 26 the Emir of Kuwait

commuted all 29 death sentences issued by his country's martial law courts, changing them to life imprisonment.

The Kuwaiti ambassador to the United Nations, Mobammad Abdul-Hassan, informed Mr. De Cuellar of his country's decision, which, according to U.N. observers, came as a result of heavy international pressure on the emirate.

Martial law courts set up in Kuwait after the Gulf war ended in late February have sentenced to death 29 alleged collaborators with the Iraqis despite international protests. None of the death

sentences has been carried out. In his memorandum to the U.N. chief, Dr. Ensour expressed Jordan's view that the penalties imposed on Jordanians in Kuwait were not proportionate to the charges levelled against them.

The minister urged the U.N. secretary general to pursue his good offices once again to find a satisfactory end to the present situation.

In commuting the death sentences last month, the Kuwaiti Emir said that the decision came "as a result of the appeal for clemency made by the U.N. secretary general."

The trial of Palestinians and Jordanians in Kuwait had triggered a series of sit-ins and protest rallies near the Kuwaiti embassy in Amman during which the demonstrators submitted protest notes to embassy officials. The protests followed reports of further acts of torture, detention, deportation and death by Kuwaiti armed mobs against the Palestinian and Jordanian community in the emirate.

In the wake of the Gulf crisis, the Jordanian and Palestinian community has reportedly shrunk from 400,000 in August last year to an estimated 100,000 in late June this year.

Society urges the public to give more consideration to the environment

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environment Pollution Sunday urged the public to give more serious consideration to environmental issues and demanded further educational programmes to spread awareness among the public about matters related to the protection of the environment.

Society President Ahmad Obeidat said that urgent action should be taken to protect the scarce water resources and the soil from pollution.

"Several adverse social and economic practices are causing severe consequences to the environment in Jordan and the time has come to define those re-

sponsible for this situation in a bid to prevent further deterioration," Mr. Obeidat said in an address at the opening of a workshop entitled "The Environment and the Role of Jordanian Women in its Protection."

The workshop, organised by the society in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany, is attended by 40 women representing various public and private institutions concerned with women's activities and the environment in Jordan.

Several working papers dealing with different aspects of environment, pollution and protection of the soil are to be reviewed by the two-day workshop.

The Friedrich Naumann

Foundation representative at the opening session said the world was loading the environment with various types of pollutants and exhausting its resources, causing a climate change. He said that industrial development was harming nature and the poisonous waste was causing severe damage to soil, water and the atmosphere.

The official appealed to the farmers to introduce changes in their style of work and to refrain from excessive use of chemicals.

A working paper submitted by Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment official Suifan Al Tal demanded that

the government speed up work on the environment strategy to help deal with pollution issues.

The paper noted that the scarce amounts of drinking water in Jordan were being endangered by pollutants which also contaminate the air and the soil.

Dr. Tal referred in his paper to the pollution caused to the atmosphere by the loading of phosphate at Aqaba and by the mining and the other industries.

The role of women in helping protect the environment in Jordan, safe use of drugs and means to provide protection to the wildlife reserves will also be discussed at the workshop.

Haidar Al Amareh Establishment for Agriculture and Trade

Tender Announcement

Haidar Al Amareh Establishment for Agriculture and Trade wishes to buy 300 first-time pregnant cows, in accordance with the following terms:

- ★ Cows should be 6-7 months pregnant upon selection.
- ★ Production of mother cow should not be less than 5000 kgs of milk during the first season.
- ★ Pregnant cow should weigh no less than 500 kilograms upon selection.
- ★ Insurance period should be one month following the arrival of first-time pregnant cows to the farm, provided that insurance coverage be as follows: 100% against death, 50% against miscarriage, and 100% against any bone fracture upon arrival at the farm, provided that meat price be credited to the insurance company.

Bidders can send in their bids as of today and until July 28, 1991 to the offices of Haidar Al Amareh Establishment for Agriculture and Trade in Zarqa, Amman-Zarqa old road, near the Royal Jordanian, Fax 934774, Tel. 934842, 934842, Telex Tilarah Jo 41420, P.O. Box 7070.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Showqi Sheekat, Mohammad Al Jalous and Rifqi Al Razzaq at Abdul Hameed Showan Foundation 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Maher Al Shmabi at Alia Art Gallery, Insurance Building, 1st Circle.
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by Margaret Tadros and Najwa Annab at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Embroidery exhibition at Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Maysoon Sawalha, Basma Silawi and Youssef Al Bis at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Art exhibition by Khalid Masri at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- ★ French film entitled "Trois Femmes a Abbeville" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.



Muscat-based Pabil Graphics Advertising Network, one of the largest advertising firms in the Arab World, has joined hands with Advertising Company SAOC (ADINC), a newly established firm. Saad Bahwan, an official of ADINC, said the partnership with Pabil Graphics would not only assist ADINC in providing international quality advertising and marketing support solutions to advertisers in Oman, but would also be of tremendous help to Omani producers wanting to export to other countries in the Arab World. Fidaa Hakawi, the regional director of Pabil Graphics, said his company was extremely happy to be associating itself with the Omani's prominent business houses like the Zawarwa, Bahwans, Ministas & Jarwad and others that are associated with ADINC.

وزارة الاشغال العامة والاسكان
دائرة العطاءات الحكومية
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

Announcement for Central Tender No (75/91) Concerning Ma'an Telecommunications Project

The Government Tenders Directorate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan announces the above mentioned tender for the implementation of telecommunication project which tends to improve the telephone services in Ma'an area. The project consists of the following:

CATEGORY-I-

- a) Supply and installation of (one) digital main switch
- b) Supply and installation of (two) switching nodes, including environmental equipment and power plants.

CATEGORY-II-

Supply and installation of digital transmission equipment. The Telecommunications Corporation of Jordan (TCC) is the responsible organisation for the implementation of this project. Interested tenderers specialised in the field of telecommunication are invited to purchase tender documents from:-

**Government Tenders Directorate,
Ministry of Public Works and Housing
P.O.Box (1220)
Amman-Jordan
Telex 21944
Fax 684 759**

Starting on Saturday, July 6, 1991, against a non-refundable price of JD 250. Last date for purchase of tender documents shall be on July 31, 1991. The tender, accompanied by a tender security, should be delivered, by post or otherwise, to reach the Government Tenders Directorate not later than 12:00 noon on Tuesday, October 1, 1991. The tenders shall be opened in the presence of tenderers representatives who may choose to attend, at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 1991.

**Chairman, Central Tenders Committee,
Eng. Basheer Al Jaghbeer**

Jordan Times

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Laws and more laws

THE LOWER House of Parliament today starts a two-month extraordinary session for which a full agenda has been prepared. On top of this agenda is the government's policy statement on which Prime Minister Taher Masri either wins or loses the deputies' vote of confidence. This is of course one of the pillars of democracy: governments should only rule after gaining the confidence of the people. However, the House's agenda also contains no less important issues: the political parties law, the press and publications law and the election law. All are very significant bases for a functioning democracy. Nonetheless, a warning is due. For while legislation is an indispensable tool for the safe interaction of modern societies, over-legislation has been proven to be an impeding instrument for the progress of society. This fact has been demonstrated in both the capitalist and the socialist systems. In the latter, over-legislation or overregulation has, over the years, led to oppressed societies that finally exploded at the seams. In the West as well, it took the U.S. and the U.K. a decade to deregulate, especially in the economic sector, during the reign of President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The impact of overregulation on the West had, however, been far less devastating than on Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union where it was practised under oppressive authoritarian regimes.

Regulation, through legislation, has resulted, especially in developing countries, in the state having monopoly over public life and placed unbearable burdens on the individual as well as the state. In democracies, especially in liberal democracies, the right of the individual should be sacred. Unfortunately, over the years, we have in Jordan over-regulated people's lives to the extent that citizens feel unable to accomplish anything of significance without "help" from the establishment. This has led to apathy, and stifled the will to act and change. This was only natural since when every aspect of people's lives is controlled by laws or regulations, or otherwise, when the freedom of the individual gets hijacked and confiscated by the state, creativity and any pioneering spirit by the individual citizen is absent or inhibited. What the state should be doing, through new legislation, is to disengage. The state should stop and then reverse the trend of insisting on "licensing" every aspect of our life. Forty-six years ago when the Kingdom gained independence, Jordanians, as individuals, were far more free to do things than they are today. They held fewer passports, birth certificates, licences for driving and land use, etc.

But today Jordanians cannot even use their own land without a permit from the state.

Only two years ago farmers could not plant their land the way they decided was beneficial to their own interest and had to follow a centrally-planned policy that proved to be a failure any way.

Deputies should defend their constituencies against the encroachment of the state on their own affairs. Services should be decentralised since those provided by local communities are far more efficient than the same ones provided by the capital. Unless people take hold of matters that concern them, the country will continue to stumble and the economy, especially, will stagger. What the country needs most in this new era of democratisation is to free the will of the people and that of the individual. And it is for the government of Mr. Masri and Parliament to realise this.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The visit to Jordan by the Chinese prime minister was warmly welcomed by Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday as a new thrust to focus world attention on the situation in the Middle East region and the need for a permanent solution to the Palestine problem. The paper said that the visit and China's call for convening an international conference to ensure the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 were welcomed developments for Jordan which seeks to re-establish the Palestinian people's national right in their own homeland. Referring to China's call for a total control over arms shipments to the region, the paper said that such control should cover all countries in the region. China's call for an international conference and control over arms shipments do not conform with the ideas of the United States which had been continuously providing Israel with all types of mass destruction weapons and encouraging the Israelis to expand in Arab land. The paper noted, China's attitude is worthy of Arab countries' interest in view of China's international weight and its status as one of the permanent members of the Security Council with a power of veto, the paper continued. But the paper wondered whether China would be willing to follow up this stand with a practical step towards convening the international conference and towards curtailing Israel's military power. It said that Peking can answer this question, but until then Jordan can only voice support for China's calls and for its ideas of establishing a lasting peace in the Middle East region.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Sunday directs the concerned authorities' attention to the plight of the residents of Russeifa in order to realise the suffering of its people and to taste the polluted atmosphere, says Nazih. The writer says women and children are subjected day and night to a polluted environment, making life almost impossible due to the various bad smells and the fumes coming from the nearby phosphate mines. Housewives' main concern in Russeifa is to remove the dust falling from the sky and contaminating the atmosphere of their homes endangering the lives of their children, says the writer. He says that those concerned over the protection of the environment in Jordan should take time to examine this dangerous situation and save the lives of innocent citizens.

Weekly Political Pulse

The right to motherhood: A basic human right

By Waleed Sadi

DURING the 41st session of the U.N. Human Rights Committee, the committee charged with the mandate to investigate state parties' adherence to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Sri Lanka was one of the countries that had its periodic reports examined by the committee. As usual the member expert of the committee would pose his or her own line of questioning in an effort to first reflect the member's own sense of priorities as well as avoid duplication of efforts. There are always the so-called routine type of inquiries that centre on how Sri Lanka is incorporating the provisions of the Covenant into its domestic legislation.

In other words, the concern of the members is always directed first and foremost to the issue of how the people of Sri Lanka can avail themselves of the articles of the Covenant by invoking them in a court of law if necessary. This is always a thorny subject as few state parties take the necessary measures as required under the Covenant to incorporate its principles into their own laws. By and large, almost all states argue that their respective constitutions and body of municipal laws already reflect faithfully the articles of the Covenant and therefore they conclude there is no need to take additional legislative measures to make the Covenant part of its domestic laws by a specific act of the legislative body. Even the most advanced countries make the same submission on this matter, a situation that always creates areas of dispute between the state parties to the Covenant and the committee.

In this vein, Jordan is in the happy position of having enshrined the Covenant in the Jordanian jurisprudence by a Supreme Court decision that dates back to the early seventies. That high court

ruling states that the treaties that Jordan had ratified have precedence over all local laws with the exception of the Constitution. Unfortunately no Jordanian litigation has ever been challenged on that basis with regard to the applicability of the ICCPR. This is a shortcoming in the development of the country jurisprudence that awaits early rectification. Possibly human rights activists in the country will one day take that cause to the highest courts of the land in a bid to cement the position and status of the ICCPR in the Kingdom's municipal laws.

After posing the traditional questions to the high-level Sri Lankan delegation that appeared before the committee in its April session of this year held at the U.N. headquarters in New York, I tried to raise issues that I came in touch with here in Jordan. I have always been alarmed at the situation of Sri Lankan maids in my country and viewed many of them as victims of mistreatment bordering on slavery. So I quizzed the Sri Lankan delegation on why the fate of their people working abroad is left to arbitrary treatments without any effort by the government to protect them and safeguard their rights and welfare. I drew a parallel between the Philippines and Sri Lanka where the former takes much more efforts to protect its workers in foreign lands by demanding the right to scrutinise their work contracts and conditions of work to make sure they are up to standard and in conformity with international standards and norms. I was also particularly concerned about the right of the child in Sri Lanka which I thought was being denied when Sri Lankan mothers leave their children behind in search for employment elsewhere. I asked point-blank the question of whether Sri Lankan children are being denied one of their most cherished right, the right to motherhood

when their respective mothers leave them behind for years on end in search for livelihood in foreign lands. I did not get satisfactory answers from the Sri Lankan delegation on these two major points, especially the second one.

With regard to working conditions for Sri Lankan labourers working in foreign countries, the Sri Lankan representatives viewed the host countries as principally guilty for not assuring foreign workers fair treatment in accordance with international human rights instruments. One has to concede that host countries are duty bound to safeguard the rights and interests of foreign workers found in their midst but such a responsibility does not absolve labour-exporting countries from the duty of protecting their nationals in foreign countries. Sri Lanka can do a lot more to protect its people working outside its jurisdiction.

As for the right of Sri Lankan children to be with their biological mothers, there is really nothing that the Sri Lankan government can do to rectify the situation short of halting the departure of mothers from their country in search for gainful employment elsewhere in the world. Unfortunately the recently-adopted International Convention of the Right of the Child did not touch upon this point. I believe this is a very serious omission that requires urgent attention. I cannot think of a more important right that any child can be entitled to than the right to be with his or her mother especially during the formative years. The committee members did not react to this line of questioning as it seems it was the first time ever that the issue was raised. Nevertheless I contend that this matter calls for a more thorough investigation and I personally will make it a personal crusade to continue to raise the subject whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Muslim world closely watching Algeria

By David Crary
The Associated Press

PARIS — The Algerian army's forceful effort to crush fundamentalist protest is under close watch throughout the Muslim world.

To some, the army is guilty of repression. To others, it is safeguarding a rare chance for true democracy.

Repeatedly throughout more than a month of crisis, military commanders have stressed their determination to guide Algeria through the turmoil to its first multiparty parliamentary and presidential elections.

Last week, following renewed street fighting and radicals' calls for a "holy war," that determination shifted into a harsh crackdown. The top two leaders of the fundamentalists' Islamic Salvation Front were arrested, along with hundreds of supporters; their headquarters was seized; mosques in their strongholds were shut down.

In neighbouring Morocco and Tunisia, where secular governments also fear fundamentalist uprisings, there has been no official second-guessing of the Algerian military's hard-nosed tactics.

Tunisia recently arrested 300 fundamentalists suspected of plotting a takeover.

But in Iran, the world's only Islamic republic, and elsewhere, questions have been raised.

Maamoun Al Hudeibi, secretary-general of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, said he regretted the crackdown.

"We're afraid this is a kind of plan meant to push Islamic movements towards committing mistakes and violence," said Mr. Al Hudeibi, whose party is banned but tolerated by Egyptian officials.

Since the Salvation Front's success in the local elections, he said, there has been a campaign in state-run Arab media and the Western media to vilify the movement.

The crackdown means "the end of democracy in Algeria," he said. "The military is the one in control and the tanks are ruling."

In Jordan, one of the few Arab countries to allow fundamentalist parties a full political role, a Muslim Brotherhood spokesman accused Algerian authorities of pushing through election laws aimed at minimising the Salvation Front's chances to win a parliamentary majority.

"The violent reaction by some Islamic groups could happen anywhere if democracy is hampered," said Ahmed Qatish Azaidh.

Algeria was on the road to an even bolder experiment with democracy. It abandoned one-party rule two years ago and was committed to holding free, multiparty elections for parliament on June 27 until fundamentalist-led protests and subsequent riots forced a postponement.

In an experiment with few precedents in the Arab World, the fundamentalists were allowed full participation in the first phase of democratisation — multiparty local elections in June 1990.

The Islamic Salvation Front swept to a stunning victory, winning control of about 900 of 1,500 local councils.

The government — and non-fundamentalist opposition parties who boycotted the local voting — didn't lash back at the time. They let the Salvation Front try its hand at local government while girding up for the more crucial legislative elections.

In May, the Salvation Front began a massive protest campaign, demanding postponement of the parliamentary voting, an

overhaul of election laws and a presidential election sooner than the scheduled date of 1993.

The Front said it protested because the election laws were unfair. But some Algerian analysts believe the Front wanted to disrupt the election schedule because it no longer felt confident of victory.

Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told a gathering in Tehran recently that Algerian Muslims had taken to their rooftops to chant "God is Great," just as Iranian revolutionaries did during the 1979 revolution that toppled the shah.

This action "exemplifies their learning from the Iranian people," he said.

On July 1, Algerian authorities said they had summoned Iran's ambassador to warn against Iranian interference in internal politics.

The Islamic Salvation Front's arrested president, Abbasi Madani, visited Iran several times since 1989, most recently in May. He is a close friend of Iran's former interior minister, Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, a hard-liner who believes the Iranian revolution must be exported by whatever means.



A military and immoral imbalance

By M. Saad

THE proposal by U.S. President George Bush for arms control in the Middle East can be summarised in the following manner: tilt the balance of power so strongly in favour of Israel that the Arabs would never dream of creating any trouble for the Jewish state.

It is not a bad way to keep peace, if it were not for a little question of morality. The proposal would put paid to any hope Palestinians have of regaining their land.

Bush wants the countries in the region to ratify the 1972 agreement which calls for the nonproliferation of biological weapons and a ban on chemical weapons. The U.S. president has also asked for a regional freeze on ballistic missiles as a prelude to a complete freeze on their use, and a commitment on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

Although in theory laudable, the proposal leaves Israel as the sole nuclear power in the region, with an arsenal estimated at 300 nuclear warheads — not one of them mentioned by the U.S. president.

The Bush recommendation falls in line with the Israeli attitude typified by the point of view of Evan Cohen, a lecturer in philosophy at Tel Aviv University, who recently told an audience at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that "Israeli nuclear superiority should be maintained," and that, "while the Arabs should be denied the right to possess nuclear weapons, Israel should be the sole country with access to nuclear technology in the region." Plain talking enough. Unfortunately, this view is shared by many U.S. analysts.

Israel and its supporters in the U.S. administration argue that the nuclear capability of the Jewish state is a deterrent against the conventional weaponry of the Arabs — although Israel maintains a clear superiority in that area too. Therefore, rather than encouraging a situation in which a balance of power will develop, the United States wants to consolidate the military supremacy of Israel in the region.

Balancing nuclear weapons against conventional arms is like comparing apples and oranges. The devastating effects of a nuclear attack are much more momentous than a comparable attack by conventional weapons. Moreover, the effects of a nuclear attack are much more long-lasting. Ironically, even as Mr. Bush said he wanted to hold a conference of the five major arms suppliers to the region — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China — his secretary

of defence, Dick Cheney, told reporters that Washington was stockpiling arms in Israel and would continue to provide Israel with armaments to maintain its conventional superiority.

Despite the occasional rhetoric of some within the Bush administration, the commitment of the United States to Israel is clearly unequivocal. Even as Israel maintains a solidly intransigent stance vis-a-vis peace talks, even as it continues to build settlements on the occupied land for Russian Jewish emigrants and even as it imports Jewish refugees from Ethiopia while forcing Palestinians out of their districts in East Jerusalem through land confiscation, the support is absolute.

If, as Secretary of State James Baker and Mr. Bush want intransigence on peace talks, then why continue to support it financially, to increase military dominance? Would not the best policy be to create an environment conducive to peace by pushing for negotiations, rather than an environment propitious for war by sponsoring intransigence?

The 15,000 or 20,000 Falashas, or Ethiopian Jews, who were shuttled to the Jewish state during the last days of the Mengistu regime come to an Israel already struggling to accommodate wave after wave of immigration from the Soviet Union. Why did the United States help Israel to bring these people to the Jewish state? Were the Jews of Ethiopia in greater danger than members of other faiths? There are no reasons to believe that they were, and on one has put forward an argument in this regard.

The only reason that Israel, already saddled with a huge overpopulation crisis in its recognised lands, is interested in the Falashas is because of its expansionist aspirations. In the years to come, unless there is a sincere and concerted international effort to stop Israeli ambitions, Falashas and the Soviet Jews will be aiding Israel to expand towards Palestinian areas, and the Palestinians themselves will find they are being squeezed into refugee camps on their own land.

If the United States wants the Middle East demilitarised, if it wants to defuse this proverbial powder keg, then it must do so by addressing the problems that cause the tension, rather than by throwing oil into the fire. Creating a military imbalance in the region may prevent the Arabs from overwhelming Israel on the battlefield, but it will neither guarantee peace nor promote it.

M. Saad is an Egyptian businessman. The article is reprinted from Middle East Times.

World of arms control in crisis after cold war

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuters

BRUSSELS — The disarmament industry is in disarray — all the ground-rules seem to be changing.

For decades, arms control meant negotiators arguing endlessly about a tiny piece of secret missile technology or how to define a tank.

While East was balanced off against West, arms talks were little more than a safety valve, a way of keeping the channels of communication open and perhaps — but only perhaps — of slowing the race to build more weapons.

But suddenly, it's a whole new world.

The thaw in East-West relations from the mid-1980s turned talks on cutting missiles and other hardware into real negotiations with far-reaching implications for the military on both sides of the former iron curtain.

Now, analysts contacted by Reuters say arms control is suffering an acute identity crisis.

The neat balance between NATO and the Warsaw Pact has gone and complex national security needs are reasserting themselves.

"The end of the cold war has taken away much of the intellectual foundation for arms control in Europe," said John Chipman of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London.

"That world was based on a binary system of international politics, which is now totally fragmented."

"The days of bloc-to-bloc negotiations are all but over," said Richard Kokoski, an arms control expert at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

"What's going to happen now, what will replace that, no one really knows. But everyone in the arms control community is talking about it."

French President Francois Mit-

terrand and U.S. President George Bush are among world leaders pushing for a new agenda that will look beyond the cold war arsenals — preventing the spread of missile technology and nuclear chemical and biological weapons to developing countries.

But, as the world's most powerful nations discuss how best to give shape to that idea, more traditional forms of arms control are floundering.

Analysts believe the recent European conventional forces treaty and an almost-completed superpower agreement to cut long-range nuclear arsenals may be the last of their kind.

Many nations have taken away the rationale for negotiations by making big defence cuts unilaterally, looking to their individual economic and security needs.

Diplomats involved in arms talks say the political and economic crisis in the Soviet Union, by far the biggest military power in Europe, has also clouded the picture.

"As the major partner for the West in arms control, the Soviets are no longer very coherent about their agenda," said one diplomat. "We are not sure who sets the pace any more."

Despite these problems, countries as big as the United States or as small as Belgium will still be interested in agreements that improve their security and limit the options for a potential aggressor.

SIPRI's Kokoski and other experts contacted by Reuters said the whole process will become infinitely more complex, with bilateral or smaller regional deals forming a network of overlapping agreements.

"The arms control debate will not get easier, it will get more complicated," said one senior NATO official, who asked not to be identified.

Instead of endless bagging over numbers of tanks, missiles or the capabilities of military hardware — known as "bean-



counting" — negotiators are more likely to focus on so-called confidence building measures in the future.

These measures, including public notification of large military manoeuvres or allowing inspectors from "enemy" countries to visit installations, have traditionally been the poor relation in arms control.

But they are an important part of discussions within the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which groups the United States and Canada with all European states, including the Soviet Union.

The CSCE is expected to become the forum for European conventional arms control from next year, now that bloc to bloc negotiations are a thing of the past.

The current problems are well illustrated by talks in Vienna among the NATO and the former Warsaw Pact nations on limiting troop levels in Europe.

NATO officials say there is little chance of a legally-binding treaty like the conventional forces in Europe (CFE) treaty signed last November that provided for deep cuts in military hardware from the Atlantic to the

Urals.

Instead, they says, there are likely to be a series of political declarations from the countries involved, pledging that they will not increase their troop levels.

This prospect has touched off a debate within NATO about whether such agreements are worthwhile, diplomats say.

One school of thought sticks to the Western alliance's traditional argument — that agreements are not worth the paper they are written on unless they are legally binding and contain ways of preventing countries from cheating.

Those who argue that case point to a row with Moscow over the recently-signed European conventional arms treaty. The complex dispute over whether some equipment should be included has prevented national parliaments from approving the deal.

But another school of thought in the arms control community believes that the post-cold war era will have to rely more on trust and the greatly reduced likelihood of war, rather than legal fine print.

"In the new Europe, many believe that political declarations are now acceptable. It's a more relaxed view of things," said one NATO official.

Jordan, China to boost relations

(Continued from page 1)

automatically renewed unless either party decides otherwise, the minister noted.

In a statement to Petra, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qun expressed China's deep appreciation of the efforts exerted by His Majesty King Hussein to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Qian described the latest talks with Jordanian officials as fruitful and said that the two sides exchanged views on Middle East issues and found that they hold identical views.

The minister said that China support the convening of an international conference to find a just solution for the Palestinian problem and to enable the Palestinians to regain their rights in their homeland in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The minister said international efforts should be exerted to force Israel to adopt a flexible stand with regard to peace.

Israel's settlement policy does not help the peace process and it places obstacles in the path of achieving peace, he said.

A joint statement issued at the end of the Chinese premier's visit summed up the various topics discussed and said that the two sides reviewed means to boost cooperation in cultural, economic and trade fields.

The talks, which were held in an atmosphere characterised by friendship, revealed that the two sides held identical views. The two sides underlined the importance of attaining a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East problem through an international

peace conference to be held under U.N. auspices for the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," the statement said.

"The two sides are in agreement that Israel's policy of building settlements in the occupied territories and settling Jewish immigrants is illegal and obstructing peace. They called on the international community to help restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination," it said.

"The two sides agreed on the need to remove all types of mass destruction weapons and to eliminate all nuclear, biological and chemical weapons that may exist in all countries of the region," the statement said.

"The two sides agreed that the new world order should provide for the respect of territorial integrity of all countries and should uphold the principles of non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs of other countries and coexistence as well as the principle of settling all international disputes through peaceful means and in conformity with the principles and the charter of the United Nations and international law," it added.

"Jordan expressed its appreciation of China's support for Arab causes and China's constructive role, through the United Nations, with regard to Arab causes. China lauded King Hussein's efforts to promote the cause of world peace and security," it said.

The King accepted an invitation extended by Mr. Li to visit China. According to the statement, a date for the visit will be fixed later.

In West Bank village, daily life is bleak

The following article is reprinted from the Guardian, a radical New York-based newsweekly.

By Beth Goldring

RAFAAT, Occupied West Bank — Many of the most important events taking place in the Israeli-occupied territories in the post-Gulf war period are unfolding without much apparent drama. Massive land confiscation, settlement-building and unemployment are dramatic events in themselves, but the way they enter people's lives is in the form of loss and absence of meaningful activity.

Unemployed people have time to spare. Palestinians show their lost land from a distance, wait for their surveyor to obtain permission to measure it for the court case and tell you what happened last week when someone tried to enter the land. But nothing much seems to be happening. The visitor's strongest sense is of a reality lived in suspension, of people's powerlessness over processes that destroy their lives.

The official Israeli presence in a remote village like Rafaat does not normally take the form of soldiers, raids, restrictions and harassments, although these also exist. The occupation is there in the form of larger restrictions strangling the village economically and socially. During the Gulf war this strangulation resulted in what Bir Zeit University Professor Rita Giacaman called "astronomical" death and infant mortality rates: eight people, five of them under a year old, in one month in a community of 1,500. Since the war some restrictions have been eased, but the combined forces of land confiscation and unemployment, on top of pre-existing hardships and poverty, make the village's future hard to imagine.

Rafaat is an ancient village set high in the hills outside Nablus. The location is stunningly beautiful, overlooking mountains and the coastal plain. The air is pure enough that changes in the light register constantly. Although the village has been Muslim for many centuries there are ruins of an old baptismal font from its Christian past, and even older Roman ruins.

Like most West Bank villages, Rafaat has a centre of old, continuously inhabited houses, in this case at the very top of the village, supplemented by more modern buildings around them. Unlike villages where income from families working in the United States or the Gulf has provided elaborate houses or luxuries, construction in Rafaat has remained fairly simple. The differences between rich and poor are not very great here.

Modernity is not far away. At night the lights from Natanya, inside Israel, sparkle in the distance. Electricity lines to Jewish settlements run along the one paved road that passes the village (there are a few unpaved streets in the village but most houses are reached by foot). The electricity lines do not enter Rafaat. What little electrical power villagers have each evening comes from generators shared by about six families each. There is no refrigeration.

Rafaat was never connected to the Israeli water system. There are wells in many homes and others that are used collectively. When the wells dry up, villagers have to purchase water from



Olive trees have become symbols of resistance to occupation.

Trees that soldiers recently uprooted from the village of

Rafaat have been replanted in an Israeli settlement.

tanks, which can be expensive. The village clinic has been closed for several years, but there is a doctor living in the village.

Like many highland villages Rafaat is unable to support its people by agriculture. The main crop is the biannual olive harvest. There are also fig trees, and corn and wheat are planted. Aqoub, a thistle-like vegetable eaten mainly by poor people in the Nablus region, grows wild. There are some sheep, goats, chickens and cows.

Rafaat residents traditionally own about 9,000 dunums of land (one dunum equals a quarter-acre), half of which are in the process of being confiscated. These seizures represent Israel's third attempt to confiscate the land. In 1984-5 such a push was defeated in the Israeli High Court. Since the Gulf war, the area has been declared state land (a designation usually applied to property that is either uncultivated or to which no one possesses ownership documents).

Harvest of bitter fruit

Since the confiscation was announced this spring, the land has been closed off and used for military training. A camp was put on some 40-50 dunams and local people were prohibited from entering the rest. In March, when three young men from poor families went to gather aqoub on the

land, soldiers beat them, tore their clothing and sent them home. A surveyor trying to fight the confiscation is attempting to obtain permission to survey the land.

The Israelis removed some 2,000 1-year-old trees from the land in mid-April. A week later 10 trucks returned and took away about 200 6- and 7-year-old trees (trees removed in this fashion, especially mature trees, are often replanted in the settlements).

Before the Gulf war the basic income upon which the village depended came from the 200 men who worked inside Israel. Despite differences in educational backgrounds and other abilities, virtually all of them worked in construction or agriculture.

An orange harvester might be paid \$6.50 to \$7 for packing a 340-pound box. This was half the wage paid to the labour contractors for their work. A skilled and strong worker might pack three to four boxes a day. Wages for construction work varied from \$22.50 to \$30 a day, depending on skill.

"Since the Gulf war only 10 men from Rafaat are still working in Israel, and even they do not work every day. Sometimes they are given work permits for a limited period; sometimes they go to the checkpoint and soldiers line them up and beat them, despite their having permits to

enter Israel to work; and sometimes there is no work. One worker who has laboured in the same orange groves since 1967 have never been permitted to return to his job nor been paid compensation for losing it. His salary was \$20 a day, while Jewish workers in the same orange groves whom he supervised, and who had been there much less time, were paid twice as much.

At the household level this loss of income is partially cushioned by the subsistence-level provision of olives, oil, eggs and some flour from the land. But some families face absolute hardship. One family of 15 was being supported by a son who had worked irregularly in Israel for the past five years, since he quit school at 16. His father had previously worked in construction but was injured in a fall. Although the father had worked in the same place for 14 years and was 50 per cent disabled after the accident, he was given no disability pension, insurance or compensation, nor was his medical treatment covered. (This is a frequent pattern even though Palestinian workers regularly registered for work in Israel pay 40 per cent of their salaries for these and other benefits). Two other children in the family are severely disabled, unable to speak, walk or dress themselves.

Last year the family had to

spend almost \$250 on tanks of drinking water during the summer. Where they will find the money for water this summer is hard to imagine.

About 10 village families have members facing possible summary deportation for living in Rafaat without Israeli identity documents. This is a familiar problem in the occupied territories; members of extended families marry each other, and wives raised in Jordan or Kuwait return to live in the family's West Bank or Gaza village of origin. These wives live in the territories on visitor's permits, making repeated attempts to achieve legal residency through a process known as family reunification. But the applications are nearly always denied.

Women from the village who marry extended-family members living outside the territories cannot even apply for family reunification, but must move away to live with their husbands. Renewal of a visitor's permit is difficult and expensive, and many Palestinians simply remain in the villages on the expired documents.

Astronomical death rate

In 1989 the Israeli military began summary deportations of these "illegal" Some 250 women, children and elderly peo-

ple were deported before popular pressure forced a halt to the process. Despite promises to the contrary, many of those deported have not been permitted to return, and the danger of renewed expulsions persists.

The village has an elementary school, but children must go to the neighbouring town of Zawiya for preparatory school and further for high school. There is no formal transportation to and from the village. Residents pay a small amount to ride with people going outside for other errands. After 7:30 in the morning it is difficult to go anywhere except on foot or by donkey.

The result of these pressures can be seen in the village's mortality rate during the Gulf war. Rita Giacaman translates Rafaat's eight deaths, including five infants, within a month to a general mortality rate of about 52 per 1,000 and an infant mortality rate of about 100 per 1,000. By contrast, according to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, among 100,000 West Bank refugees living in camps, two children under a year old died between January and March 1991, a longer period within which the Gulf war curfew was contained.

No milk

Soldiers were not present in Rafaat for much of the curfew, but the prohibition effectively limited people to the village. Rafaat's fields are too far away for people to return home from work before soldiers found them and imposed fines of \$175, more than most villagers could afford. The village ran out of milk quickly. It also ran out of rice, flour, sugar, cigarettes, eggs, vegetables and canned fish. At least two cows and 30 goats died for lack of fodder. And people, especially children, died, largely because medical care was inaccessible.

Since the end of the war the death rate has dropped. Life in the village appears normal; people work what land they can, and some of the unemployed have bought a few goats or sheep to raise. In the evenings people visit, watch television, drink tea.

But food is very simple and nobody has enough cigarettes. Palestinian men smoke, and families will cut back on many things in order for the men to have tobacco. The cigarette shortage is such a significant indicator of real shortages that families, to preserve their dignity, will make every effort to prevent visitors from seeing it.

Rafaat has not been a major centre of the intifada. Nobody has been killed or deported for an alleged role in the rebellion, and no homes have been demolished by the army. About 20 people have been imprisoned, several of them repeatedly, but the village has never been especially targeted for long curfews, sieges, raids or other collective punishment.

The bleak situation in Rafaat mirrors the larger crisis confronting the Palestinian community. The ability of its residents to sustain themselves has been severely compromised by the strangulation of measures beyond their control. And these measures, which drastically undermine ordinary family life, reveal the nature of the occupation and Israeli intentions even more keenly than do the military actions taken to suppress the intifada.

Naval siege cripples Aqaba

(Continued from page 1)

These moves are discouraging major companies from sailing to Aqaba while several international firms have said they would only resume their service once inspection are lifted.

Others, including the Red Sea Express, a consortium of four big European ship owners regularly serving Jordan's commerce with North America, Britain and Mediterranean ports, imposed an inspection

Israeli shot

(Continued from page 1)

role in the Middle East peace process, Mr. Brunner replied: "I don't know. I can tell you that at the end of my tour."

Israel, which regards the U.N. as biased against it, has rejected any role for the organisation in proposed peace talks.

Mr. Brunner will also visit Jordan, Egypt and Syria after three days in Israel. He is also to meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar appointed Mr. Brunner, who is Swiss, in March, to give the U.N. a more active role in regional peace efforts after Israeli police killed at least 18 Palestinians in Jerusalem last October.

The last U.N. Middle East envoy, Gunnar Jarring, left in 1972. The post is mandated in U.N. Security Council Resolution 242. Israeli officials played down Mr. Brunner's visit. "This is no a major matter. It is almost routine," said foreign ministry official Yohanan Bein.

The European Community is also sending an envoy to Israel this week to discuss the permanent of a representative to distribute EC funds for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Serbs and Croats clash

(Continued from page 1)

come to the aid of Serbian fighters saying they were "at the end of their resistance."

Croatian leaders have expressed fears of a move by federal forces aimed at separating feuding Croats and Serbs. Ethnic Serbs make up about 11 per cent of Croatia's five million people.

There have been ethnic clashes almost daily in Croatia since the republic joined Slovenia in declaring independence on June 25. At least 43 people have been killed in ethnic fighting that began in May. That toll does not include Sunday's fighting.

In Briuni, EC mediators met with federal and Slovenian leaders to discuss who should control the "breakaway" republic's borders.

The talks were seen as crucial to easing the crisis created by Slovenia's independence declaration.

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Stich beats Becker to win Wimbledon title

LONDON (R) — Michael Stich, playing in his first Grand Slam final, thrashed triple champion Boris Becker to win the Wimbledon title Sunday.

The sixth-seeded Stich, who had already disposed of defending champion and world number one Stefan Edberg in the semifinals, beat Becker 6-4 7-6 6-4 in the first all-German men's singles final in Wimbledon history.

Becker's task already looked hopeless after Stich won the second set tie-break 7-4. No-one had come back from two sets down to win the Wimbledon final since Henri Cochet beat fellow Frenchman Jean Borotra in 1927.

Though Becker, the Australian Open champion, saved eight break-points during the third set, he succumbed on his own serve at 4-5 down, after Stich had lunged for a difficult volley to get to match point.

The cool Stich, who has long lived in the shadow of his Davis Cup team mate, converted the point with, one of the many superb service returns that had graced the match and sank to his knees on the centre court grass.

The 22-year-old Stich has only one other career title to his name — last year's Memphis tournament. But he had already made his presence felt this year before Wimbledon with an appearance in the French Open semifinals.

Jim Courier, the eventual champion, beat Stich at Roland Garros but Stich took his revenge here, knocking out the fourth-seeded American in the quarterfinals.

Stich is only the third number six seed to take the Wimbledon men's title, following in the footsteps of Americans Dick Savitt in 1951 and Arthur Ashe in 1975. While Stich looked calm under pressure here, winning three tie-

breaks to beat Edberg in a four-set semifinal where the Swede never once dropped a service game, Becker was erratic.

On Sunday, Becker paced the court constantly berating himself for errors, screaming aloud and slapping his bandaged thigh.

One such outburst late in the second set cost him a warning for wasting time from British umpire John Bryson.

The match was interrupted briefly when a man claiming to be President Bush and waving photographs climbed on to the roof of the scoreboard at the side of the court as Stich prepared to serve in the second game of the second set.

The man was hauled away by officials.

Becker, who became the youngest Wimbledon champion in history when he won here at the age of 17 in 1985 in his first Grand Slam final appearance, has

often struck terror into the hearts of his opponents with his fearsome serve.

But Stich — Becker's friend as well as his rival — faced up to the serve with a casual air, producing a string of superb returns to frustrate Becker.

Despite the defeat, Becker will move up to number one when the new world rankings come out Monday, thanks to his victory in the semifinals and Edberg's defeat at the same stage.

But that was little consolation for Becker, who had played Edberg in the last three finals here.

"At this stage I would rather be number two and be Wimbledon champion," said the 23-year-old Becker who climbed over the net to embrace Stich after the match.

"It is a little difficult to explain now what I feel but I am going to need a few weeks until I am back

to normal mentally," he said.

Stich set up his chances right from the start, breaking Becker in the opening game on a sweltering afternoon when the temperature rose to 40 degrees Celsius.

Though Becker broke back to level at 3-3, Stich broke again in the following game, helped by a double fault from Becker along the way.

Becker's serve came back to its most effective on occasions. After an exchange of breaks early in the second set, he twice held service to love, producing three aces.

Becker saved two break-points in the 11th game before the set ended in a tie-break which Stich won with an ace on set-point.

The third set went with serve for the first nine games but it was second-seeded Becker who was constantly under pressure.

He had to save four break-

points in the fourth game and two more in the sixth.

But after Stich had held to love to go 5-4 up, with his 15th ace of the match on game-point, Becker crumbled.

He was broken to 30 in the next game to see the match end in two hours 31 minutes with his third defeat of the last four Wimbledon finals. He last won the title in 1989.

"From the first point I felt I wasn't in the match at all — my mind was far away from it," said Becker, adding that rain delays earlier in the tournament had taken their toll.

"It was probably one match too much this week."

"I knew if he didn't make some big mistakes I wasn't going to win," Becker said. "I did not have enough energy."

Stich's £240,000 (\$388,000) in prize money will take his career earnings over \$1 million.

WBC orders Nelson-Fenech rematch

SYDNEY (AP) — World Boxing Council (WBC) super-heavyweight champion Azumah Nelson of Ghana was ordered Sunday to give a rematch to Australian challenger Jeff Fenech, promoter Bill Mordey said.

Nelson retained his title with a controversial draw against the unbeaten Fenech on June 28 in Las

Vegas. Most ringside observers felt Fenech deserved to win.

Mordey said WBC President Jose Sulaiman had ordered the rematch, which he hoped to hold in Melbourne on a date yet to be decided.

Fenech, however, has said he will not fight in another promotion involving American promoter Don King, who has Nelson

under contract.

Mordey said King, Nelson and Sulaiman all were agreeable to staging the rematch in Australia.

"Three of the four principals want to fight in Australia. The ball is now in Jeff's court."

The WBC already has named American Richard Steele as referee for the Fenech-Nelson rematch.

Lemond takes lead in Tour de France

LYON, France (R) — Greg Lemond pulled off a remarkable coup to seize the race leader's yellow jersey in the first stage of the Tour de France cycle race Sunday.

The short and relatively easy 114.5 kilometres opening stage had been expected to serve as a gentle warm-up session for the tour's 198 riders.

But the American had other ideas as he put all his chief rivals except Dutchman Eric Breukink in the shade.

Lemond, three times tour winner, followed the day's first breakaway by Swiss Rolf Järmann and crossed the line with a bunch of just 11 riders to finish all of one minute 43 seconds ahead of the main peloton.

Soviet sprinter Djamolidine Abdoujaparov won the stage ahead of Ireland's Sean Kelly with Lemond third in the same time.

Lemond, who took the opportunity of picking up 14 seconds worth of time bonuses in intermediate sprints, leads the overall standings by 11 seconds from Breukink, taking the yellow jersey from Saturday's prologue winner Thierry Marie of France.

All the other race favourites, including Italians Gianni Bugno and Claudio Chiappucci as well as Pedro Delgado and Miguel Indurain of Spain, were left behind in the main group.

"It wasn't planned," Lemond said of the surprise breakaway. "I just seized the chance which came up. I knew if we started to get away, the others behind wouldn't be sure how to react."

"You have been warned," Lemond said, addressing his rivals and critics who accuse him of not taking enough initiative in the tour.

Mansell wins French GP

MAGNY-COURS, France (R) — Briton Nigel Mansell established himself as the most successful English racing driver of all time Sunday when he stormed to the 17th victory of his career in the French Grand Prix.

Mansell, driving a Williams, ended Frenchman Alain Prost's domination of the event for the last three years by claiming his own third victory in the race.

It was Mansell's first victory since triumphing in last year's Portuguese Grand Prix at Estoril for Ferrari and lifts him one victory clear of Stirling Moss as England's most successful Grand Prix driver.

Mansell finished the 72-lap race at the new 4.271-kilometre Magny-Cours Track in a winning time of one hour 38 minutes and 0.056 seconds.

He was five seconds clear of Prost in a Ferrari at the finish and 40 seconds ahead of world championship leader Ayrton Senna of Brazil who finished third in a McLaren.

Frenchman Jean Alesi, in the second Ferrari, was fourth ahead of Italian Riccardo Patrese who finished fifth, one lap down, in



Nigel Mansell the second Williams with fellow Italian Andrea de Cesaris sixth for Jordan.

French President Francois Mitterrand was at the track, which was packed to its 82,000 capacity, to present the prizes.

Mansell, who also clocked the fastest lap of the race, moved up to second in the championship standings on 23 points behind Senna with 48.

Boutayeb wins 10,000-metre race in Mediterranean Games

ATHENS (R) — Moroccan Hammou Boutayeb destroyed the field to win the Mediterranean Games 10,000 metres race by a margin of 14 seconds Saturday.

In the absence of younger brother Brabim, the 1988 Olympic champion who was running in the lucrative Bissett Games in Oslo, Hammou kept the family honour intact.

He started unambitiously and was closely followed until the halfway mark by Spain's Juan Carlos Paul and Italian Francesco Benigni.

Seemingly unconnected by the hot, humid conditions the 35-year-old Boutayeb then raised the pace and steadily drew away to win by almost 100 metres in 28

minutes 24.19 seconds, some 40 seconds slower than his best time this year.

Bennici finished second and another Moroccan, Khalid Boulami, was third.

The 1984 Olympic shot put champion Alessandro Andrei earlier struggled to win the gold medal ahead of Italian team mate Luciano Zerbini.

Andrei won with a put of 19.38 metres, more than three metres of his world record mark from 1987.

The games' medical commission confirmed the life ban on Tunisian featherweight weightlifter Taoufik Maouia who failed a drugs test the previous day and was stripped of his bronze medal.

Elliott wins 'dream mile' in Oslo

OSLO (AP) — Peter Elliott, after two previous second-place finishes, finally won the "dream mile" in the Bissett Games Grand Prix athletics meet.

The Briton, a former holder of the world indoor mile record, held off Wilfred Kirochi of Kenya, Jim Spivey of the United States and Simon Doyle of Australia in a thrilling finish down the stretch. Only 45 seconds separated the top four.

Elliott's victory in the last event prevented an African sweep of the men's middle- and long-distance races Saturday.

Elliott, second here last year behind Joe Falcon of the United States, was clocked in 3 minutes, 49.46 seconds, tops in the world this season.

Elliott and the other front-runners were below Steve Cram's split times from 1985 at Bissett, when the Briton set the world mark of 3:46.32. But they could not keep the pace in the final 400 metres.

"I was uncertain about my form, but we decided to have a crack at the record before the race," Elliott said.

Elliott, who ran a 3:55.17 mile at Belfast, Northern Ireland, on June 21, finished behind Cram in his first mile at Bissett Stadium.

"Cram, Seb Coe, Steve Ovett, it's nice to follow in their footsteps," Elliott said. "They were the greatest milers."

Kirochi was clocked in 3:49.77. Spivey in 3:49.83 and Doyle, who improved the Australian 1,500-metre record twice in recent Grand Prix meets in Finland and Sweden, in 3:49.91.

Falcon, injured in a race last Wednesday at Stockholm, returned to the United States and skipped the Bissett event.

The only other top gun missing was Noureddine Morceli of Algeria, the world's top-ranked 1,500-metre runner and owner of the two fastest times of the year at that distance.

Hassiba Boulmerka of Algeria pulled off a surprising victory in the women's mile, outkicking favoured Doina Melinte of

Romania.

Boulmerka, the first African woman to win a major mile, was just five seconds off the world record, clocking 4:20.79. Melinte finished in 4:22.04.

Pattisue Plumer was the top American, placing sixth in 4:24.90. Off-injured Mary Slaney, making her European debut and racing for the first time since June 6, was a distant 11th.

Merlene Ottey of Jamaica extended her winning streak to 50 straight finals win an impressive 10.88 clocking in the women's 100 metres.

Ottey, who has not lost a final in the last two years at 100 or 200 metres, edged Irina Sergeeva of the Soviet Union by .10 seconds en route to the fastest time of year.

Juliet Cuthbert of Jamaica was third in 11.25 followed by Pauline Davies of the Bahamas (11.27) and Michele Finn (11.39) of the United States.

Ottey, who was upset by Sergeeva in the 60 metres in the World Indoor Athletics Championships earlier this year, shot out of the blocks quickly and led all the way.

"I'm very pleased with my race," Ottey said. "My start was very good."

Ottey, who had a 10.91 a month ago in a German meet, believes she can improve her time by at least two-tenths of a second by the end of the year.

"I'd like to get closer to the world record and I think a time in the 10.60s is possible," she said.

But winning is more important than beating the world record of 10.49, set by Florence Griffith-Joyner of the United States in 1988.

"I don't care about the time as long as I win," she said.

World seasonal bests were recorded in the men's 800, by Johnny Gray of the United States, 1:44.01 in beating countryman Mark Everett by .34; the men's shot put, by Werner Gunthor of Switzerland, 22.03 metres (72 feet-3 1/2 inches); and Richard Chelimo of Kenya, men's 5,000

metres, 13:12.22.

Chelimo, who knocked two seconds off his previous mark set at Stockholm last Wednesday, outkicked Kenyan Osoro Ondoro by .52 seconds. Yobes Ondieki, another Kenyan, finished third in 13:14.98.

Chelimo started the season with a superb 27:11.98 in the 10,000 metres, the second-fastest time in history, in a meet at the Netherlands on June 25.

Uta Pippig of Germany won the women's 10,000 metres in 31:51.36. Wanda Panfil, a marathon specialist from Portugal, was just behind in 31:53.83.

Maki Izumi of Japan placed third in 31:57.84.

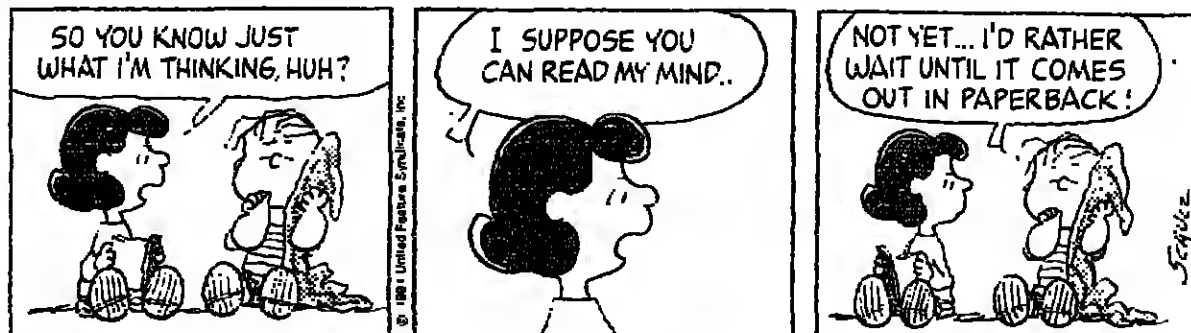
Ingrid Kristiansen of Norway, who set the world record of 30:13.74 here in 1986, withdrew early. Kristiansen, the only runner ever to simultaneously hold world records or world bests in the 5,000, 10,000 and the marathon, returned to competition only recently after an illness.

Khalid Skah, a native of Morocco who is based in Norway, turned in another strong kick to beat double European champion Salvatore Antibo of Italy in the 10,000 metres.

Skah's winning time was 27:23.29, second-fastest in the world this year behind Chelimo. Antibo, who swept the 5,000 and 10,000 in last year's European Championships, was 1.26 seconds behind.

Arturo Barrios, the world-record holder from Mexico, came in fourth in 27:37.36 behind Tomas Osano of Kenya (27:28.87).

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



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♠ A 10 6
♥ 10 9 7
♦ 7 3 2
♣ K 10 5

EAST
♠ 7 3
♥ 6 4 2
♦ J 10 8 6
♣ A Q 8 6

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 9
♥ K 5
♦ A 8 5
♣ 7 3 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead:
How do you know when to make a passive opening lead and when to choose an aggressive course? If the opponents have crept into a contract laboriously, they probably have little, if anything, to spare. That's the time to pull in your horns, lest an aggressive action cost you a trick. Let the opponents do their own work. But if the opponents have bid confidently to what you can assume is their right spot, failure to attack might result in watching your tricks vanish into thin air. Consider this hand from a team match.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JULY 8, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Help those around you and yourself to maintain a calm and poised attitude as there could be the sharp and disconcerted comments of others that are not sure of themselves.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have so many ideas you hardly know which to concentrate on first but so long as you think in terms of advancing yourself, this can be a good day.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You now are able to find the answers that are important to you by quietly getting off alone and meditating upon them without any disturbances.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever your best abilities suggest as the way to please some important friends and to join up with a gathering of congenials is splendid now.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have the chance now to find out how you stand with those in important positions so tactfully get this information to the bigwigs.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) There are a number of new channels for your growth and expansion but it is necessary you get more study put in before you really understand them fully.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) A day to start the new week by tackling all of those obligations of a

business or personal matter from some new angle or highly specialized exactness.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Now you are able to get partners to let you know just what they think should be done in order to make your joint undertaking far more productive.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) You work means a great deal to you and you can make it much more as you wish by concentrating upon and finding new inventions that help you.

SAGITTARIUS: (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You really want to have some release from drudgeries now and you can have them by the intelligence with which you use your spare time.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your goal now can wisely be to get along better with your own household and you can do this by listening to those at home and going along with their suggestions.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Open up a new attitude to your daily dealings so that your usual associates can give you the benefit of their suggestions to make progress.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is your time to make a point the changes in procedure, interest that can bring you more income and property to you for the future.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Okay, here's our cheapest policy. When you go, we supply the dip for your farewell party."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HARCI
KYMOS
QUERIV
YAIRPT

WHAT A REVOLVING DOOR TENDS TO MAKE SOME PEOPLE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: VAGUE PANSY BIKINI WINNOW
Answer: Where you'll find "deposits" that many people leave aside for a rainy day — IN A SNOW "BANK"

THE Daily Crossword

by Herman Surasky

ACROSS
1 Beam
9 Name in boxing
12 Castro's friend
13 Stratford-on-Avon
14 Czech river
15 Lumberjack's spot
17 Strange prof.
18 Walked
19 Physiologist — Euler
20 Former Air Force
21 GIP
22 Zip
23 Verdi aria
25 Oriental
30 Incination
31 A-one
33 House members
38 — off (angry)
39 Samovars
40 Oboe
41 Curian residence
43 Wams
44 Oval office conference
48 Lodgings
49 Over there
50 — Brute
54 Caesar's river
55 Ostensive attributes
58 Fr. holy woman
59 Tunes
60 Flat-bottomed boat
61 Pathetic org.
62 Finisher?
63 Bishop's hat

DOWN
1 Endure
2 USA word: abbr.
3 Chinese: pref.
4 Mid expletive
5 Decay
6 Fifth grad.
7 Extinct bird
8 Carpenter or soldier
9 Upper stage of a rocket

10 Russ. leader
11 Actor Jeremy
13 All well
14 Government branch
16 Always
18 Hobbled at
21 M. Lacoste
22 Unruly tots
23 Mona —
24 Day
25 It's clear to me
26 Kind of dream
27 Depression
30 CAP
32 Above
33 Chipper
34 Concocted
36 Stage extra
37 Sermon
42 Nave off
43 Angry
44 Angry
45 Blood carrier
46 Boo-boo
47 Expose me!

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:
PREP HAVING
BALE AHEAD
SALAD BOBBED
SPIRITUAL TIGHT
SHARDED SPARK
GASPO AUNTIE
TUNE SPOTEN DIBBE
ASA FEEL RIPP
BLUE DRAFT RIPP
SEEMED BITE
STORIES DEERED
HOLLOWS SPOKE
ALLA BURIA AUSTY
MAYO BRATIA AUSTY
LASSO DEPOSIT AUSTY

50 Case for small articles
51 Gradation of a color
52 Fr. head
53 Country monogram
55 Wages
56 Infr.
57 Speed letters

Financial Markets

Weekly F.X. Market Summary (July 1-July 5, 1991)

THE DOLLAR rallied early last week to reach its highest levels in 20 months against the Deutsche mark. Despite a bout of profit-taking Wednesday, the dollar rallied further Thursday to reach its highest level of the week. A second round of profit-taking took place Friday, however, and the dollar closed at its lowest level of the week, but higher than closing levels at the end of the previous week.

The dollar rose sharply against most major currencies Monday. Its rise was triggered by a higher than expected increase in the National Association of Purchasing Management index, which rose to (50.9%) in June. This was seen as a sign of expansion in U.S. manufacturing, thus reinforcing the current market view that the U.S. economy is coming out of recession and into sustainable growth. In spite of an earlier BOJ discount rate cut to (5.5%), the drop in the yen was muted as traders said that the cut had been anticipated by the market and was thus already discounted. The strong underlying economic fundamentals of the Japanese economy further supported the yen.

The dollar continued to rise Tuesday, helped on its way up by market weakness and the release of U.S. Factory Orders figures, which rose (2.9%) in May. The market was hampered by escalation of political turmoil in neighbouring Yugoslavia, coupled with the continued uncertainty over German investment regulations. Although the government had earlier announced that it was no longer considering introducing a withholding tax on investment earnings, it was, however, considering a relaxation of bank secrecy rules in an effort to contain tax evasion. Analysts said that such an action would spur capital flight out of Germany. Investors were hence seen to be staying out of the market until a clearer idea of government intentions can be developed.

Wednesday witnessed a drop in dollar rates particularly against EMS currencies. Traders said that

a natural bout of profit-taking on long dollar positions built during the week was taking place ahead of the 4th July holiday in the U.S. This was spurred even further by a drop of (3.5%) in May U.S. New Home Sales figures, while the market was expecting an increase of (2.3%), together with an earlier drop in U.S. stock prices. The U.S. currency's decline was halted, however, by an increase in corporate demand for the dollar at around (1.82) marks. Rumours of financial scandal in Japan and a drop in Japanese stock prices hurt the yen, causing its cross rate against the mark to rise to (76.28) yen, compared to Tuesday's rate of (75.64) yen to the mark.

The dollar dropped slightly against the yen in Tokyo for fear of BOJ intervention around (140) yen Thursday. It rose to its highest level of the week against EMS currencies, however, closing in Tokyo at (1.8375) marks, (139.40) yen, and at (1.6030) dollars to the sterling pound. It maintained these levels during European trading, while no trading took place in New York, as U.S. traders were on official holiday.

While the dollar rose to reach (1.8475) marks in Tokyo Friday, it soon fell back below (1.8400) marks, and fell further in New York at the release of U.S. employment figures. Unemployment rose to (7%) in June, as non-farm payrolls dropped by (50,000), compared to expectations of a rise of (11,000). The dollar dropped to close at its lowest level of the week as a result of these figures, despite a revision of May's non-farm payroll figures, which showed an increase of (119,000), compared to the increase of (59,000) released earlier.

Expectations of the direction of dollar exchange rates in the week ahead are mixed. While the majority of observers remain bullish, some observers began to question the strength of the expected U.S. economic recovery, and its implications to further dollar strength, as a result of June's employment figures.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	28/6/1991 Close	5/7/1991 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.6220	1.6155	- 0.40%
Deutsche Mark	1.8105	1.8253	- 0.80%
Swiss Franc	1.5525	1.5747	- 1.40%
French Franc	6.1360	6.1855	- 0.80%
Japanese Yen	137.45	138.35	- 0.65%

Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	1-Month (%)	3-Month (%)	6-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.81	5.93	6.75
Sterling Pound	11.56	10.93	11.31	10.56
Deutsche Mark	8.87	9.25	8.81	9.31
Swiss Franc	7.93	7.68	7.87	7.81
French Franc	9.62	9.62	9.62	9.62
Japanese Yen	7.93	7.53	7.40	7.34

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.688	.690
Sterling Pound	1.1110	1.1166
Deutsche Mark	.3761	.3760
Swiss Franc	.4363	.4385
French Franc	.1111	.1117
Japanese Yen*	.4968	.4993
Dutch Guilder	.3344	.3361
Swedish Krona	.1039	.1044
Italian Lira*	.0506	.0509
Belgian Franc	.01831	.01840

* Per 100

World spends \$1 trillion a year on military

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world spends more than \$1 trillion a year on military troops and hardware, according to a World Bank report released Sunday.

"Governments need to take every possible step to reduce military expenditures," the report on world development says.

In the late 1980s, it says, military spending totalled \$860 billion a year for high-income countries and \$170 billion for developing nations.

"If global military expenditures were reduced, the world would undoubtedly be a better place," the report says, but it notes that conflicts putting pressure on governments to build up their militaries continue in the Gulf, Afghanistan, Angola, Central America and Indochina, with civil wars in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia and Sudan.

The report cites Costa Rica as an example of a country which has decided to reduce military spending in favour of more support for health and education.

"Many countries have to deal with bigger internal and external threats than those facing Costa Rica," the report says, adding, "even so, these threats hardly justify the sums being spent today on armed might."

The bank, which is the biggest lender to developing countries, said aid and finance agencies have the right to ask "whether it makes sense to help governments whose first priority is not to develop but to add to their military strength."

Hashimoto cautions over greater Japan aid from taxes

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Finance Minister Ryoitaro Hashimoto reacted with caution to reported remarks by Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama that Japan should increase its financial and other contributions to the world.

Mr. Nakayama reportedly suggested that Japan raise its official development assistance (ODA) to one per cent of gross national product (GNP) in the future.

"I doubt if international cooperation based on the GNP ratio is realistic... that may end up with covering requests for aid that are not fully convincing," Mr. Hashimoto told reporters.

Japan's ODA totalled 0.32 per cent of its GNP in calendar 1989, against an average 0.51 per cent for all members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), excluding Japan and the United States, foreign ministry data shows.

Mr. Nakayama was quoted by Japanese media as saying that the introduction of new taxes might be one way to finance greater ODA and other aid.

Foreign ministry officials could not confirm Mr. Nakayama's remarks but said there were some ideas of increasing Japan's financial and personal contributions.

"The minister apparently jumped the gun. This kind of issue involving the budget must be discussed with other ministries in advance," one said.

Luxembourg court to deal further blow to scandal-hit BCCI today

LUXEMBOURG (R) — A court will place the Luxembourg-based Bank of Credit and Commerce International S.A. (BCCI) in the hands of appointed liquidators Monday to unravel the affairs of the scandal-hit financial institution.

The court of justice's move, called "controlled administration," is the latest in an unprecedented wave of legal action to freeze the bank's estimated \$20 billion in assets in almost 70 countries amid allegations of fraud.

Pierre Jaans, director of Luxembourg's monetary institute, told a news conference Saturday of the impending legal action.

He said the bank had been on the verge of collapse when authorities swooped Friday. There was evidence of organised fraud linked to huge losses, he said. Financial authorities in 14 countries, including Britain, Japan, Germany and the United States, effectively shut down BCCI's activities in an unprecedented action.

Mr. Jaans said the bank, hit by another scandal involving laundering drug money last year, had posted a "huge operating loss" for 1990, which had not been made public.

"It had to take up loans to cover (the loss)... the bank probably has no capital left," he said. "By next week, it would not have had a future either in Luxembourg or Britain."

BCCI had planned to move its headquarters from Luxembourg to London by the end of this year. Routine investigations linked with the reorganisation of the

bank's structure had revealed the disastrous state of its finances, Mr. Jaans said.

So far, BCCI officials have kept silent. "There will be no comment from us," said one bank official to Luxembourg.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, said Friday the fraud arose from attempts by senior executives to conceal losses from BCCI's lending and treasury operations.

The bank's deposits have been frozen as part of a coordinated attempt to secure the assets of BCC group, parent company of BCCI.

Since last year the bank has been 77 per cent owned by Abu Dhabi interests, mainly by the family of Abu Dhabi ruler and president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Zaid Ben Sultan Al Nahayan. It was founded in 1972 by Pakistani banker Agha Hassan Abedi, who underwent heart surgery three years ago.

Gulf bankers say Abu Dhabi may face huge costs to save its reputation and prevent depositor panic following the shutdown. There was a taste of that Sunday when hundreds of people besieged BCCI branches in Pakistan to withdraw their savings, despite pledges their money was safe.

Armed police were posted outside the main branch in Karachi to control 400 customers demanding their money.

'Jewish conspiracy'

"There is a lot of confusion," said engineer Hasan Akhtar as bank officials tried to calm agitated customers.

Customers in Karachi and Rawalpindi accused Western central banks of conspiring to close the bank down.

"It is a huge Jewish conspiracy," said one woman whose husband works in Riyadh. "The Jews backed by Americans don't want to see a Muslim bank flourish."

Pakistan's State Bank (SBP) said BCCI's Pakistani operation could continue.

An aide to Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz said the bank should have no problem coping with the rush of withdrawals.

"I don't think they are facing any problem," special assistant Aileen Mahmood said. "Normal banking business is being carried out and they have ample reserves."

BCCI's country treasury manager Khalil Hasan said it had met almost every demand.

Notices in the Karachi branch said: "As per instructions of the SBP we are not allowed to pay more than 100,000 rupees (\$4,000) from each account."

Customers were told they needed to get a "no-objection certificate" for each withdrawal from the state bank and a temporary ban was imposed on repaying fixed deposits before maturity.

The bank has about one billion rupees (\$40 million) in inter-banking market in addition to its statutory balance with the State Bank of Pakistan," Mr. Hasan said.

Dhaka appoints auditors

In Bangladesh, the central bank ordered BCCI to stop business immediately and appointed auditors to check its assets and

liabilities.

Bangladesh Bank, the country's central bank, issued the order Saturday night after BCCI headquarters in Abu Dhabi advised it to suspend the bank's operations.

The central bank asked all Bangladeshi banks to stop transacting business with overseas branches of BCCI.

BCCI has three branches in Bangladesh employing 347 staff. A bank source said it had deposits equivalent to \$15 million in Bangladesh.

Worried depositors found the bank shut when they tried to withdraw their money. The central bank said it would allow a maximum withdrawal of 60,000 taka (\$1,670) from each account after the assessment was complete.

Business as usual in Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, the banking watchdog said in a statement the Bank of Credit and Commerce Hong Kong Ltd (BCHHK) would continue business as usual.

"There is no evidence here of the suspected fraud which has led to the difficulties in the rest of the BCC group," commissioner of banking David Carse said.

Mr. Carse has sent a representative, J.R. Aspdon, to Abu Dhabi to meet government officials there Monday to decide the future of the bank, a government spokesman said. The Abu Dhabi government is the ultimate majority owner of BCCI.

The office of the Hong Kong government's exchange fund has said it will place funds with BCHHK on normal commercial

terms if necessary, the spokesman said.

BCHHK's regional manager Tariq Jamil said business on Saturday was "as close to normal as it can be" and there was no rush on the bank's 30 branches in the territory.

The government has also appointed two representatives of the banking watchdog to act as advisers to BCHHK's management.

Spain revokes licence

In Spain, the government decided Friday to revoke the banking licence of BCCI and put the bank's operations there into liquidation.

In London, British court-appointed liquidators moved in over the weekend to try to sort out BCCI's finances, but warned that it was a complex task and could take time.

Luxembourg had suggested BCCI move to London, since many of its worldwide activities are conducted from there. The bank had agreed to do so by the end of this year.

Mr. Jaans said the problems might have remained hidden if BCCI had decided to stay in Luxembourg, which has tight banking secrecy laws. "It was due to pure chance that this scandal was uncovered," he said.

He declined to say how much the bank had lost last year. The authorities had decided to step in to protect shareholders and creditors from BCCI's imminent collapse.

The Luxembourg institute notified central banks in other countries of the move Friday.

Study predicts big fall in Australian wool output

LONDON (AP) — Depressed prices and poor consumption prospects will force Australian farmers to cut back wool production sharply over the coming five years, according to a new study of the market.

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) forecast that Australian production — which hit a record 723,000 tonnes in the 1989-90 (July-June) season — will be down to 500,000 in 1995-96.

Record world production, falling Chinese imports and rising stocks have halved wool prices over the past three years, said the EIU, a private business information company.

Chinese imports slumped last year to 62,000 tonnes from a peak of 188,000 in 1988 and are expected to recover only slowly to

reach 162,000 tonnes in 1995, according to the EIU.

The company is forecasting a gradual reduction in Soviet imports in the 1990s, because of hard currency shortages, and is "not optimistic" about consumption prospects elsewhere.

Purchases by the Soviet Union, which traditionally account for about 10 per cent of global imports, are forecast to fall to 120,000 tonnes in 1995, indicating from 130,000 in 1990.

Globally wool consumption is forecast to increase by under two per cent a year between 1990 and 1995 indicating a loss of its share of the total fibre market.

"The main adjustment needed to restore balance of the market will therefore have to come on

the production side... and it will come principally from Australia," the EIU said.

Australia is the world's biggest producer of wool, which generates about 10 per cent of the country's export revenue and vies with coal as the biggest earner.

The Australian Wool Corporation cut the price it guarantees to wool growers by 20 per cent last year — the first reduction since the introduction of the minimum price support scheme to 16-year ago.

Any new support price for the 1991-92 season could be fixed as

low as 450 Australian cents per kilogramme, compared with 870 cents before last year's cut, the EIU said.

The company forecasts little change in the combined wool output of Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa, but forecasts a rise in New Zealand production from 225,000 tonnes in 1990-91 to 260,000 in 1995-96.

Argentine production is forecast at 85,000 tonnes in 1995-96 (95,000 estimated for 1990-91), Uruguay at 75,000 (69,000) and South Africa 53,500 (51,000).

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Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

THE BIKINI SHOP

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

PRETTY WOMAN

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOU

1) NINJA TURTLES

2) SAVAGE WILL Arabic

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

THE BEACH GIRLS

REVENGE

Show: 6:30, 8:30

Mandela, calling for continued sanctions, urges ANC flexibility

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — Nelson Mandela, the newly-elected president of the African National Congress (ANC), said Sunday that international sanctions against South Africa should continue.

But he also said the ANC must show "flexibility and imagination" in its sanctions policy. Mr. Mandela spoke after the ANC elected a hardline governing body and reaffirmed its boycott of constitutional talks with the government in a meeting that ended early Sunday.

Winnie Mandela, Nelson's controversial wife, and Communist Party leader Joe Slovo were among the 50 members chosen Saturday by secret ballot to the National Executive Committee. Hardliners such as Chris Hani, leader of the ANC's armed wing, and Harry Gwala, a militant Communist, were among the top vote-getters. In total, 30 winners belong or have strong ties to the Communist Party.

The choices indicated the 2,000 delegates sought hardline repre-

sensation on the Executive Committee after electing Mandela and Walter Sisulu, considered moderates, to the two top leadership posts.

The moderates favour negotiations with the white-led government on forging a non-racial constitution that would give voting rights to the black majority. Hardliners distrust President F.W. de Klerk's governing National Party and fear negotiations would require too many concessions.

In his closing address, delivered as dawn approached Sunday, Mr. Mandela called for negotiations as part of the struggle for equal rights.

He said the conference endorsed continued international sanctions against South Africa, mass actions such as protests and strikes, and urgent efforts to align with other opposition groups against the government.

"There still remains enormous differences... about the nature of changes that have to occur," he

said. Mr. Mandela also repeated the ANC's demand for an interim government to rule during the transition to a democratic government.

The decision to continue the boycott of constitutional talks suggested the strong support for Mr. Mandela and other moderates has not changed the ANC's basic demands. Those include an end to black township unrest and the release of all political prisoners.

The anti-apartheid group halted the talks with the government in May to protest the continuing clashes between political factions in black townships. The talks are aimed at ending white-minority rule by writing a new constitution that would empower blacks.

The ANC has accused the government of siding with its bitter rival, the Inkatha Freedom Party, in battles that have killed more than 6,000 blacks since 1986. It vowed to shun the constitutional talks until it was satisfied the

government had done everything possible to end the violence. A conference resolution accused the government of delaying progress on the talks to end white-minority rule. It also urged the ANC to work out its disputes with the government.

"We must ensure the transfer of power to the people is a peaceful one," Mr. Mandela said in his closing remarks.

But his call for continued mass action and a conference on the ANC armed wing reflected the grassroots militancy of the organisation. He said the proposed conference on the armed wing would discuss the ANC's decision last August to suspend its ineffective armed struggle as a concession in peace talks.

Another obstacle involves political prisoners. The government says all political prisoners have been freed except those who might be dangerous to society.

The ANC says more than 900 remain unjustly behind bars and it wants them released before negotiations can begin.

Barricades still divide Slovenian town

MARIBOR, Yugoslavia (R) — Workers across rebel Slovenia rushed to guard barricades when Yugoslavia's federal army sent in tanks to crush the republic's independence bid 10 days ago.

But at Maribor's Boris Kidric ironworks, they stayed at their posts. Someone, after all, had to build the barricades in the first place.

On Saturday, after a week and a half of day-and-night work by up to 200 men, they finally finished the job.

"I can't tell you how many we've made, but we should have enough," said a works manager who wished to remain anonymous.

"If we need to, we can always make some more."

Set on the outskirts of Slovenia's second city, the Boris Kidric works normally produces rolling stock for the Yugoslav National Railways.

But the Slovenian government and territorial army were quick to get it working for the cause of an independent Slovenia when fighting flared.

Its new product, made from railway lines welded together to form a tank-proof barricade, is on display at junctions across town and at checkpoints on the road to the Austrian border.

In the town itself the barricades are often the only sign that anything unusual has occurred to disturb the Slovenian calm.

Although the European tourists who occasionally stop off on their way to the Yugoslav coast are still missing, the locals have returned to a semblance of normal life.

Cafes and ice-cream bars dotted around Maribor are doing good business. On the River Drava which flows through the town people were back out in their boats at the weekend.

One of the few places in Maribor where it's clear there is not actually peace in Slovenia, just a ceasefire, is at the town's Franc Rozman Barracks, where up to 1,000 soldiers of Yugoslav federal army are normally based.

The scene of mass desertions by up to 200 conscripts last week, it looks more like an urban prisoner-of-war camp than an army barracks.

A steady flow of parents arrive to visit their conscript sons, but the soldiers themselves never leave the compound.

In the meantime, the railway tracks blocking the streets around have become a permanent fixture.

"When the Slovenians want to move them, they will," said one officer. "They don't bother us."

Guerrillas, former spies working together — Bonn

BONN (R) — Urban guerrillas from western Germany and their former protectors in now-vanished east Germany are still working together underground, the head of Bonn's counter-intelligence service said Sunday.

The Red Army Faction (RAF), which began its bombing campaign against the west German establishment in the early 1970s, may now have a hard core of only about 20 members, Eckhart Werthebach told German Radio in an interview.

But its militant brutality, combined with the professional skills of their former east German mentors, made the RAF even more threatening to democracy here than the over 2,000 neo-Nazis now active in the ex-Communist east, he said.

"There are indications that a link still exists," said Mr. Werthebach, president of the counter-intelligence service known as the Office of the Protection of the Constitution.

East Germany sheltered RAF members from Bonn for years with new identities and jobs in the Communist state, but many have been arrested since German unity last October stripped away this shield.

"We know all about the profes-

sionalism of the Stasi," he said, referring to agents of the former East Berlin Ministry for State Security or "Stasi."

"And we know all about the militancy and the brutal ways of the RAF. If logistical and other help is being given here, the RAF's potential to threaten us is increased."

Mr. Werthebach said lawyers for jailed RAF suspects were smuggling messages between leaders in prison and "commandos" living underground.

Several members were now questioning whether the RAF, which last struck in April by killing Detlef Rohwedder, head of a government agency privatising former east German enterprises, should suspend its attacks.

Mr. Werthebach said legal authorities were now studying what they could do about the RAF lawyers who helped keep this debate going by smuggling messages among the group's members.

The top counter-intelligence official repeated charges made in earlier interviews that the Soviet espionage agency KGB was trying to use former Stasi agents to build up a new spy network in united Germany.

Column 18

'Racism is part of British way of life'

LONDON (R) — Racism is part of the British way of life, according to a new survey of blacks, whites and Asians. The study, carried out by national opinion polls, said 79 per cent of Afro-Caribbeans found Britain as "very" or "fairly" racist along with 56 per cent of Asians and 61 per cent of whites. The poll, published in the Independent On Sunday newspaper, said 75 per cent blacks thought ethnic minorities were unfairly treated by the police. More than 60 per cent of blacks believed employers discriminated in favour of whites, and 40 per cent of Asians and whites agreed. The poll, one of the most wide-ranging surveys of racial attitudes in Britain in nearly a decade, showed a widespread ignorance about the country's racial make-up. Many whites thought between five and 10 million black and Asian people lived in Britain. The true figure is nearer 2.6 million.

Bangladesh woman student arrested for attacking invigilator

DHAKA (R) — A Bangladeshi woman student has been jailed for throwing her shoes at an invigilator after she was caught cheating during school final examinations. Police said Shikila Akhand, 19, was arrested at Homna Examination Centre south east of Dhaka last week. Officials said Akhand became furious when the invigilator expelled her for copying from textbooks. "She has been sent to jail and her parents have applied for bail," an official said.

Man escapes injury after bungee cord snaps

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — A New Zealand tourist escaped serious injury Sunday when a bungee jumping cord snapped while he was bungee jumping from a platform, sending him plummeting into a lake. Scott Fitzgerald, 22, was bungee-jumping from a tower at the cable Ski World Theme Park at Rnaway Bay, 50 miles (80 kilometres) south of Brisbane, when the cable around his feet snapped and he fell, police said. Mr. Fitzgerald was pulled from the lake by friends. He had been bungee-jumping for the first time. A police spokesman said it was not known how far Mr. Fitzgerald fell. The operators of the theme park refused to comment. The Gold Coast Hospital at Southport said Mr. Fitzgerald was in a satisfactory condition Sunday evening, but would be hospitalised overnight for observation. No details of his injuries were immediately available. Bungee jumping was banned last year in the neighbouring state of New South Wales, after former Miss Australia beauty contest winner Nathalie McCurry suffered back injuries when equipment failed during a jump she was making in Sydney.

Killer bees migrating to Texas

HOUSTON (AP) — Up to 200 swarms of africanised honey bees have invaded south Texas but are unlikely to attack, a researcher has said. "I doubt one person in a thousand will see an africanised bee colony," said Dr. John Thomas, Texas Agricultural Extension Service entomologist. Ninety per cent of the swarms were detected within 10 miles (16 kilometres) of the Rio Grande, he said. The heaviest fronts are in Mexico between 50 and 75 miles (80 and 120 kilometres) from the border. About 600 deaths have been attributed to the bees, mostly in South America. A brownsville man was stung 18 times in May after he disturbed a hive with a riding mower. He survived. Thomas said the bees must be provoked before they will attack. "They won't bother anyone more than a regular honey bee if they're encountered in flight," Thomas said.

Defrosting plane bathroom shows

BABYLON, N.Y. (AP) — Look up in the sky it's a bird... It's a plane... No, actually, it's falling from a plane... It's an enormous chunk of frozen urine. A defrosting plane bathroom apparently dropped chunks of frozen urine over Babylon Thursday, smashing a car window, snapping tree limbs and scaring residents of a quiet suburban street. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which investigated the falling debris, made its determination Friday.

Sri Lankan rebels massacre 24

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Tamil Tiger rebels raided two fishing villages in north-central Sri Lanka and shot and hacked to death 24 people as they slept, a government minister said Sunday.

Further north in Vavuniya district, soldiers blew up a rebel bunker early Sunday, killing 10 rebels, military officials said at the Joint Operations Command, the centre of the government's anti-guerrilla operations.

The violence ended a two-week lull in the protracted ethnic war between the Sinhalese-dominated government and the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Major military offensives against the guerrillas were halted after the rebels exploded a powerful truck bomb June 21 at the Joint Operations Command, killing about 60 people.

Deputy Irrigation Minister Hema Nelson said a group of 30 guerrillas raided the village of Pudur in Polonnaruwa district late Saturday and killed 15 Muslim fishermen.

"It was a heinous crime. These defenceless people were fast asleep in the tiny village when the terrorists crept into their homes... and butchered them in cold blood," said Mr. Nelson.

He said the victims included two women and a one-month

baby. The rebels then moved to Korapalawilla village a kilometre away and killed nine Sinhalese traders.

Mr. Nelson, who represents the Polonnaruwa district in parliament, said he visited the two villages and saw the 24 bodies.

He said the Sinhalese men had come to Korapalawilla to buy fish and had stayed overnight.

Officials had earlier said all the victims were Muslim.

They said the rebels fled into nearby jungles after hacking and shooting their victims. The area is about 170 kilometres northeast of Colombo.

Malaysian state chief denounces arrested foreigners

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — The chief minister of Malaysia's Sarawak state said Sunday that eight foreign environmentalists arrested in anti-logging protests "have no right to come and stir up trouble in the state."

The eight were arrested Friday for chaining themselves to or climbing up loading cranes to protest the cutting of Malaysia's rich rain forests and its effect on nomadic people of the Penan tribe. The Penans say the logging destroys game and their natural homes.

Chief Minister Abdul Taib Mahmud criticised the eight especially because they had come purportedly as tourists.

He made his comments to reporters in Kuching, Sarawak's capital, the Malaysian News Agency, Borneo, reported from the state on Borneo Island.

The youth wing of Mr. Taib's party, the Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu, issued a statement demanding stern action against all involved in the demonstration in Kuala Baram.

The demonstrators "have greatly angered the people of Sarawak as this is a clear case of foreigners meddling in the internal affairs of the state and country," said the statement, issued by leader Celestine Ujang.

Police in Miri, 1,233 kilometres south east of the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, said by telephone Sunday that investigations of the eight were continuing.

Two other environmentalists, ordered Saturday to leave Malaysia within three days, had left Miri to fly out of Malaysia.

The protest site, Kuala Baram, is 16 kilometres from Miri, at the mouth of the Baram River. Logs cut in interior jungles are floated down the river from there for loading on ships bound for Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, India and the United States, major importers of Malaysian timber.

Two of the protesters were Germans from the Robin Wood Environmental Group. They had climbed up and hung from 20-metre tall cranes on barges being loaded with logs to be taken to a Japanese ship.

When no eruption occurred,

Mount Pinatubo raises anxiety at Philippines' most active volcano

TAAL VOLCANO, Philippines (AP) — Mount Pinatubo's devastation, and rumblings deep inside the earth here, are raising anxiety among thousands of Filipinos who live on one of the country's most active volcanoes.

Three months before Mount Pinatubo erupted and killed more than 330 people, scientists became concerned that Taal volcano, 60 kilometres south of Manila, was gearing up for a new eruption because of earth tremors and other activity.

Taal is a 23-square-kilometre volcano-island, with 47 craters and 35 cones, sitting in the middle of a 127-square-kilometre lake, formed by pre-historic eruptions.

Last March, officials urged the nearly 5,000 residents to leave the island, whose lush green slopes are marked by soft undulating contours formed by previous eruptions.

Whereas Mount Pinatubo was dormant for 600 years before awakening last month, Taal has been historically among the world's most active and deadly volcanoes.

Taal has erupted 11 times during this century, most recently in November 1977. The eruption of 1911 killed 1,334 people, including the entire population of the island, and rained ash down on Manila.

In 1754, the volcano erupted with such force that the explosions could be heard 400 kilometres to the north and four major towns were buried under the ash and debris.

Scientists say there is evidence that a pre-historic eruption of Taal buried tonnes of debris past Manila and was responsible for a layer of volcanic materials beneath Quezon City, a suburb of the capital.

Only a culture such as that of the Philippines, with its emphasis on fatalism, could produce people willing to live, work and raise their families on top a seething, natural time-bomb.

When no eruption occurred,

EC states agree on need to coordinate emergency aid

APELDOORN, The Netherlands (R) — European Community (EC) member states have agreed on a clear need to coordinate their emergency humanitarian aid.

"We are giving hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars each year and it is not being done in a very efficient way," said Dutch Development Minister Jan Pronk.

He was speaking after the first day of an informal two-day meeting of EC development ministers in this northern Dutch town.

The EC has recently mounted major relief operations for Kurdish refugees, victims of cyclones in Bangladesh and people facing famine in Africa.

Mr. Pronk said the ministers discussed ways of making EC aid quicker and ensuring member states did not work at cross purposes, including the possibility of creating an EC aid agency — an idea favoured by EC Development Commissioner Manuel Marín.

The Netherlands repeated its suggestion military equipment and personnel could be used to distribute food in the Horn of Africa but there was no reaction from other countries, Mr. Pronk said.

But the ministers did agree

there should be a link between the Community's long-term development aid to Third World countries and their record on human rights.

Mr. Pronk said the EC planned to send its diplomatic "troika" — ministers from the last, current and next holder of the EC's rotating presidency — to developing countries in Africa and Asia.

Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola and Bangladesh were possible destinations but no timetable had yet been drawn up, he said.

EC sources said the ministers could, for example, express support for countries where human rights were respected and put pressure on states where they were not.

Mr. Pronk said the ministers would draw up before their next meeting in November a draft resolution covering criteria for assessing human rights, positive action to help countries with a good record and ways of coordinating sanctions in the case of obvious abuses.

At present there are no formal guidelines linking EC aid and human rights although the European Commission, the EC executive, has in the past suspended help to countries like Sudan and Liberia where there were violations.

Australian move towards republic gathers momentum

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's move towards republic status by 2001, backed by the ruling Labour Party, gathered momentum Sunday with the formal launch of a republican movement backed by more than 100 prominent Australians.

International best-selling author Thomas Keneally, its chairman, said Australia would remain a stunted nation if it did not sever colonial ties with Britain.

The Labour Party resolved at its national conference in June to seek republic status by 2001, ending the role of Queen Elizabeth as Queen of Australia.

Mr. Keneally said more than 100 leading Australians had signed a declaration proposing that the national goal should be to become an independent republic by Jan. 1, 2001.

Among the signatories are former Australian cricket captain Ian Chappell, actor Bryan Brown, film director Fred Schepisi, lawyer Malcolm Turnbull, playwright David Williamson and former New South Wales Premier Neville Wran.

Australians felt a sense of superiority in that they would be looked after by Britain and a sense of inferiority that they could not speak with an independent voice, Mr. Keneally said.

"Both these suspicions are delusions and both have damaged us and have kept and will con-

tinue to keep us a stunted nation," he added.

He said declaring Australia independent of Britain was like a child leaving home.

Mr. Chappell said his strong desire for republicanism stemmed in part from years spent trying to beat England at cricket.

"After 16 years trying to beat them on the cricket pitch, I would really hate to think they were trying to rule us in any other way," he said.

The Labour government's targeted date for establishing a republic marks the centenary of the constitution establishing Australia as a federation of states retaining its colonial link with the British monarch as head of state.

About 75 per cent of Australia's 17 million people can trace their roots to settlers from Britain and Ireland, which still rank behind only New Zealand as a source of immigrants.

Australians have rejected calls for a republic in referenda over the past 20 years but a spokeswoman for the Australian Republican Movement (ARM) said their prime aim was to educate people to build up majority support.

Congress returns to battle Bush

WASHINGTON (R) — Battles with President George Bush on China trade, foreign policy issues and abortion-related legislation head the agenda as the U.S. Congress returns from a week-long break marking Independence Day.

In the Senate, preparations will be under way for Judiciary Committee questioning of Mr. Bush's controversial Supreme Court nominee, Judge Clarence Thomas, probably in September.

During a busy month leading up to Congress's traditional August recess, leaders in the House of Representatives are expected to give the go-ahead for a formal investigation into charges that the election campaign of ex-President Ronald Reagan sought in 1980 to delay release of U.S. hostages in Iran.

The House will be the first to lock horns with the president when it debates Bush's proposal to extend China's most favoured nation (MFN) trade status, probably Wednesday.

It is expected to attach conditions demanding progress on human rights and other issues and assurances Peking has not violated international curbs on missile and nuclear exports.

Mr. Bush opposes any conditions. The administration is expected to make its stand in the Senate where a bipartisan group of senators is seeking to head off the sanctions drive.

The Senate's first business will be to complete work on a crime bill that includes a waiting period for purchase of handguns. The House has passed a separate handgun bill.

Among major measures awaiting Senate action is a controversial energy bill that would open up the Arctic wildlife refuge in Alaska to oil and gas exploration and a separate bill setting new fuel efficiency standards for cars.

The former is opposed by environmentalists and the latter by the auto industry, already facing heavy losses.

A divisive debate over abortion rights will be revived when the Senate acts on a House-passed bill funding the Health and Human Services Department for the financial year starting on Oct. 1.

The measure, which faces a veto, would suspend a rule barring government funding for family planning clinics giving referrals on abortion. The Supreme Court upheld the rule but Congress is preparing to overturn its decision.

The administration is also threatening to veto a House-passed foreign aid authorisation bill. Mr. Bush has never lost a veto battle with Congress.

Airport pact signals start of Chinese era in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — China's victory in a battle over the Hong Kong Airport project signifies a new era in its relations with the British colony, which reverts to Chinese control in 1997.

Peking's widely recognised role as the shadow governor of Hong Kong finally came out in the open, and Britain's stature as lord of the last jewel in its colonial crown dropped a notch or two.

As for Hong Kong's dreams of autonomy, promised in a 1984 declaration by London and Peking, those have all but ended.

Colonial officials did not participate in the talks leading up to last week's agreement on the airport. Chinese and British officials, not those from Hong Kong, will dominate implementation of the plan.

Now the stage is set for work to start on airport. Bids for construction of a 4,719-foot (1,439-metre) suspension bridge are scheduled to start by the end of

this month, Sir David Wilson, governor of Hong Kong, said in announcing the agreement Thursday.

American firms hope to play a major role in all facets of the \$16.2 billion undertaking. Bechtel Inc., the U.S. engineering giant, has been appointed project manager.

Some Hong Kong residents might say Britain sold them out, but the agreement is probably the best the capitalist enclave's 5.7 million people could expect.

It recognises the power China always had in the territory, but in an important switch, challenges Peking to be constructive between now and July 1, 1997, when it takes over.

China also got a bonus. Prime Minister John Major of Britain will visit Peking soon, becoming the first Western leader to do so since the brutal crackdown on a pro-democracy movement more than two years ago.

Japan's prime minister, Toshiki Kaifu, visits in August

In an editorial Friday, the English-language Hong Kong Standard said the deal "had to be struck. Not to talk things over is like two people about to be married maintaining a stony silence until the wedding day."

The agreement ends more than 18 months of wrangling over plans to build the airport and refurbish Hong Kong's container port, the busiest in the world. Governor Wilson said China won the right to be consulted extensively on each step of this project and on any other major infrastructure plans undertaken before 1977.

Such an arrangement, which he termed "sensible," will give Peking unprecedented say in the colony's development.

It also secured the right to influence the project's financing, and Chinese firms will compete

for lucrative labour contracts. Finally, Britain promised the colony will have at least \$3.2 billion in reserves when China takes control.

Business circles in Hong Kong seemed to heave a collective sigh of relief as the news was released. The stock market rose sharply Friday.

Many who support Hong Kong's desire for autonomy criticised the plan.

"It shows the degree to which Britain is willing to cripple any chance that the people of Hong Kong will be allowed to rule the territory with a high degree of autonomy," said Martin Lee, leader of the Democracy Movement.

A newspaper cartoon expressed a common view: "That ends all the uncertainty," a Cantonese man said to another as they listened to a radio. "Learn Mandarin and take bribes," his friend replied.